

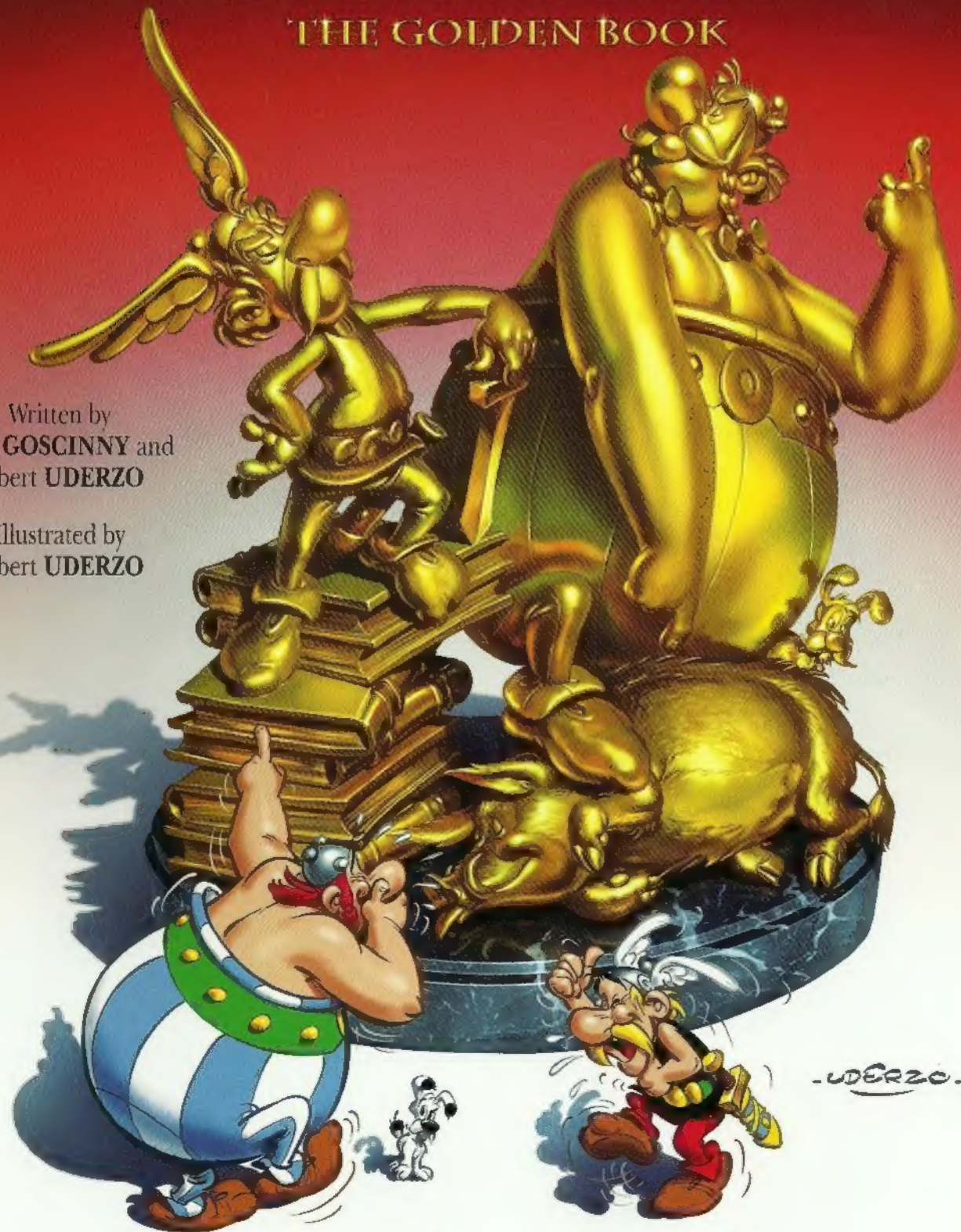
R. GOSCINNY **Asterix** A. UDERZO

# Asterix & OBELIX's BIRTHDAY

THE GOLDEN BOOK

Written by  
René GOSCINNY and  
Albert UDERZO

Illustrated by  
Albert UDERZO



-UDERZO- 2009-





HALF A CENTURY! THAT MIGHT SEEM A LONG TIME TO ORDINARY PEOPLE, ONLY THE HEROES OF STORIES, IN THE CINEMA, THE THEATRE, LITERATURE – OR EVEN IN STRIP CARTOONS, OUR SUBJECT HERE – ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO SURVIVE THE PASSING OF TIME WITHOUT A WRINKLE, AND CHEERFULLY CONSIDER THIS PHENOMENON PERFECTLY NORMAL. IT'S OBVIOUS, OF COURSE, THAT THEY OWE THEIR LONG LIVES TO THE PUBLIC. ONLY THE PUBLIC DECIDES WHETHER HEROES LIVE OR DIE, AND IF THE PUBLIC DOESN'T LIKE YOU, YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT. LET'S SUPPOSE, JUST FOR A CHANGE, THAT ASTERIX AND HIS FRIENDS FEEL THE WEIGHT OF THE YEARS LIKE EVERYONE ELSE. LET'S IMAGINE THAT LIKE THE AUTHOR OF THESE LINES THEY ARE NOW FIFTY YEARS OLDER. WE COULD FIND OUT WHAT KIND OF SHAPE THEY'RE IN, PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY ... SO OFF WE GO TO THE VILLAGE WHERE, WE ASSUME, THE INDOMITABLE GAULS ARE STILL HOLDING OUT AGAINST THE ROMAN INVADERS.

IT HAS TO BE ADMITTED THAT, IN THE YEAR AD, THE FENCE AROUND THE GAULISH VILLAGE HAS NOT HELD OUT TOO WELL AGAINST THE RAVAGES OF TIME ...



ALL THE SAME ...

FULLIAUTOMATIX & SON

HEY, THONNY-BY, WHAT'RH THAT YOU'RE MAKING?

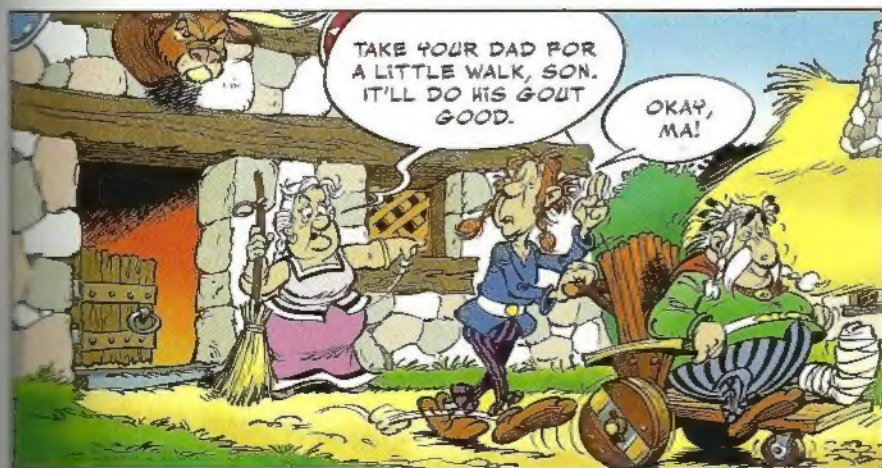


PUSH OFF, DAD. I'VE JUST INVENTED ...



... IRON TEETH FOR OLD CROCKS LIKE YOU WHO'VE LOST THEIR OWN!

WHAT?



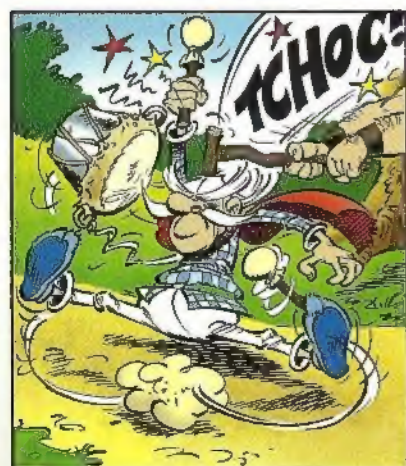
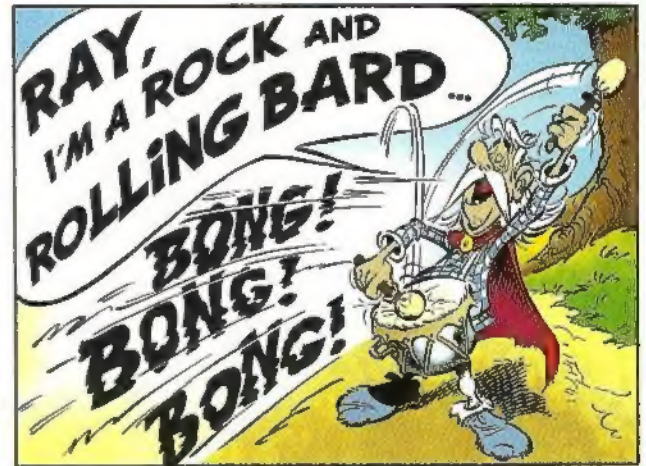
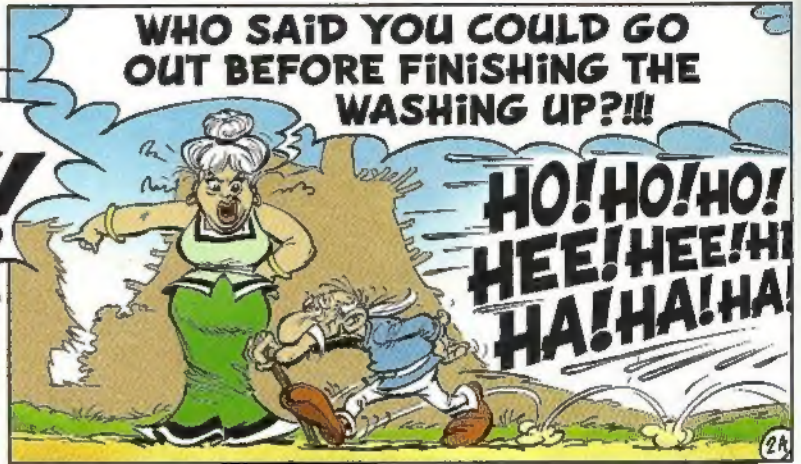
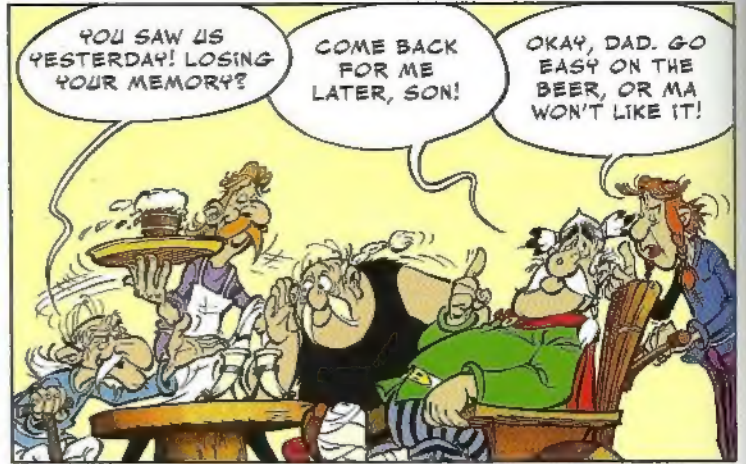
TAKE YOUR DAD FOR A LITTLE WALK, SON. IT'LL DO HIS GOUT GOOD.

OKAY, MA!

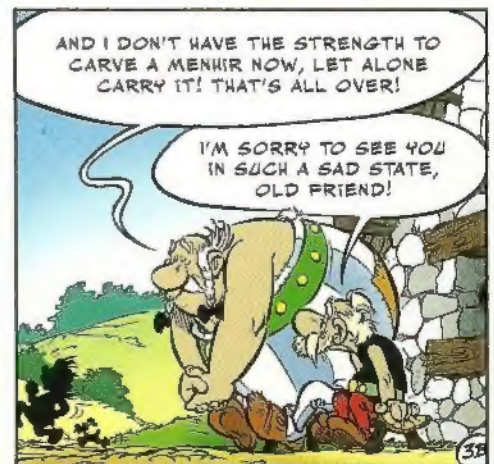
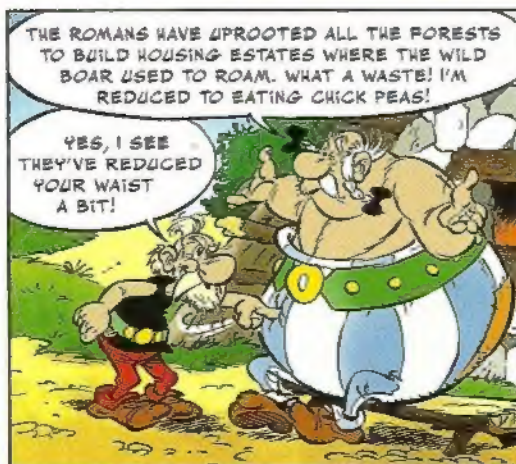
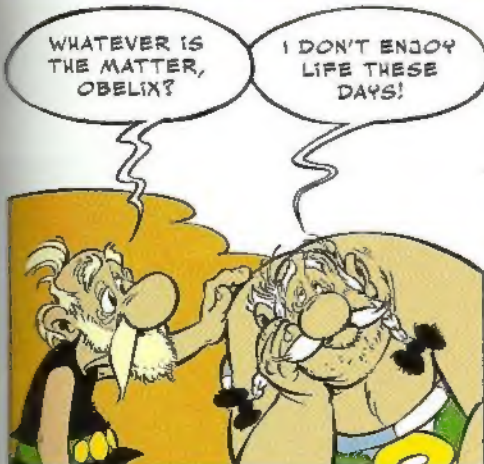
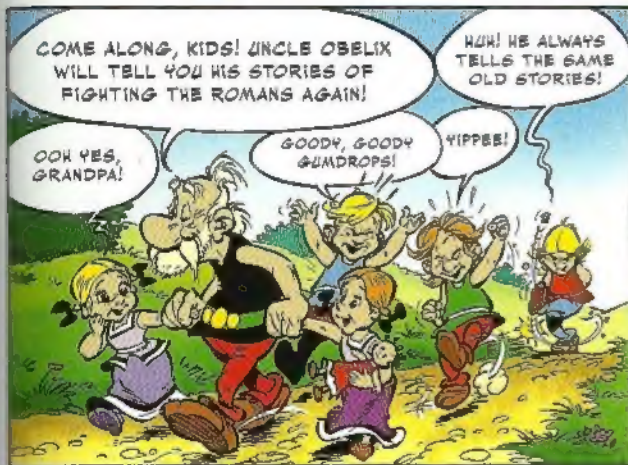
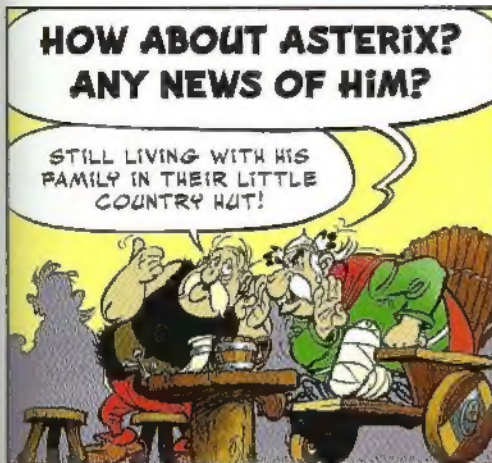


IT WORKED AGAIN, LADDIE! OFF TO THE BREWERIX FOR A JAR WITH MY OLD MATES!

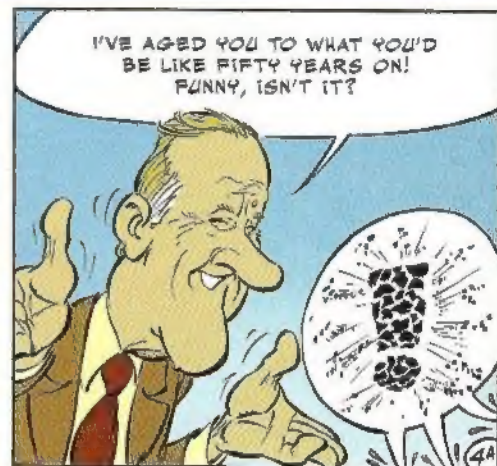












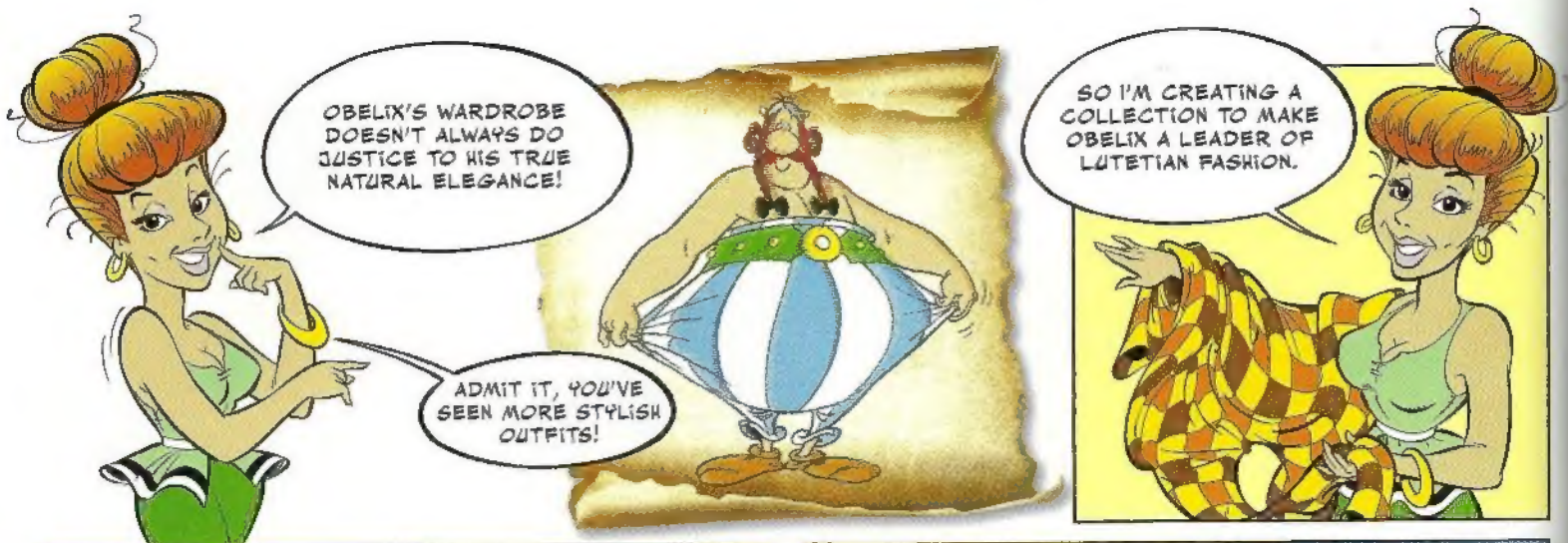
SO A LITTLE ARTWORK, AND WE'RE BACK IN THE GOLDEN AGE OF ASTERIX, THE YEAR 50 BC.











FASHION AND A GOOD PUNCH-UP ARE NOT INCOMPATIBLE: SPORTING WRISTBANDS, A WALRUS MOUSTACHE AND A PONYTAIL WILL MAKE A BIG IMPRESSION!



OBELIX MIGHT HAVE BEEN BORN TO WEAR A CLOAK. DRAPED OVER THE RIGHT SHOULDER, IT SUITS HIM.



THIS GENEROUSLY CUT TUNIC GRACEFULLY MOULDS ITSELF TO THE WINSOME CURVES OF OBELIX'S FIGURE.



A TUNIC WITH A NECKLINE SLASHED TO THE WAIST, A FLARED SKIRT AND A SMALL CAPE ... THIS LITTLE NUMBER ... IS JUST MADE FOR OBELIX.



WELL CHOSEN ACCESSORIES MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE: AN EXTRA-WIDE RUFF FRAMES A BEAMING FACE, WHILE THE HANDKERCHIEF IS GRACEFULLY WAVED.



HATS OFF TO OBELIX! THIS PLUMED FELT HAT, TRIMMED WITH A PHEASANT FEATHER, GIVES HIM GREAT PRESENCE AS HE MAKES HIS BOW!



WITH A POWDERED WHITE WIG ON HIS HEAD, HIS HAIR WORN IN LITTLE ROLLS OVER HIS EARS AND TIED AT THE BACK, OBELIX REINVENTS TRADITIONAL GAULISH PLAITS!





FROCK COAT, TALL OPERA HAT, A CANE WITH AN ORNATE KNOB - ANTICLIMAX WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE OBELIX AS AN ANCIENT BRITISH GENTLEMAN.



LEATHER GLOVES WORN FOR DRIVING A CHARIOT ELEGANTLY, A POCKET HOURGLASS WITH A FOB - AND OBELIX EXCHANGES STRIPES FOR SOME VERY CLASSY CHECKED BREECHES!



IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT, IN THIS UNDERSTATED YET ELEGANT SUIT, OBELIX MIGHT SET A FASHION FOR BERETS AMONG THE GAULS!



OBELIX IN ARTISTIC MODE: A BAGGY SMOCK TO PROTECT HIS CLOTHES FROM PAINT SO THAT HE CAN EXPRESS HIMSELF FREELY. THIS COULD REVOLUTIONIZE THE ART OF OUR TIMES!



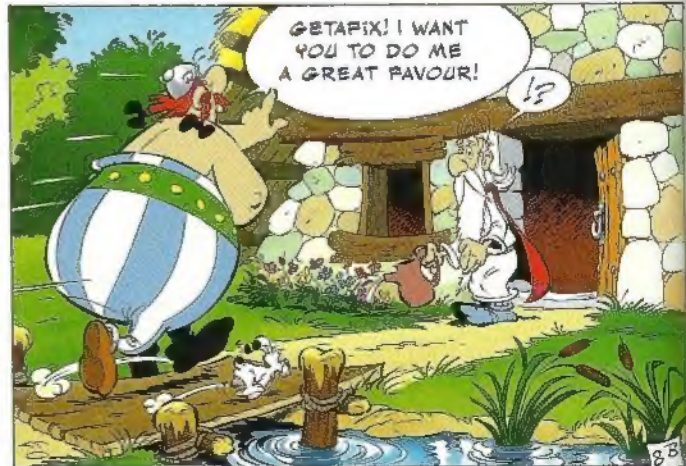
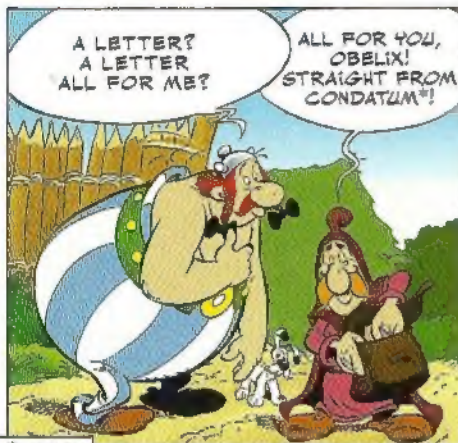
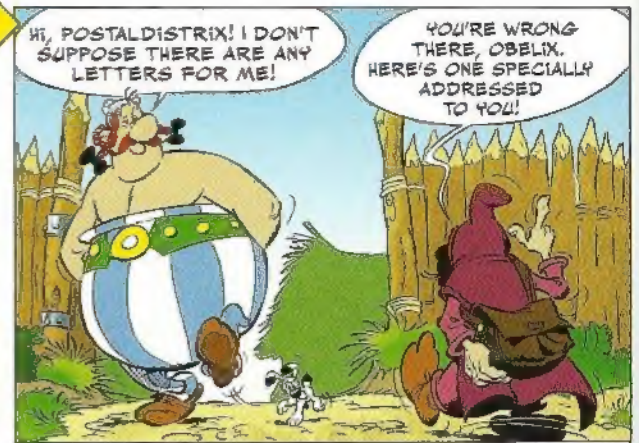
AND IN CASE ASTERIX WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE HIS SPOTS, I'M PLANNING AN EXOTIC OUTFIT FOR HIM ... IT REMINDS ME OF SOMETHING.



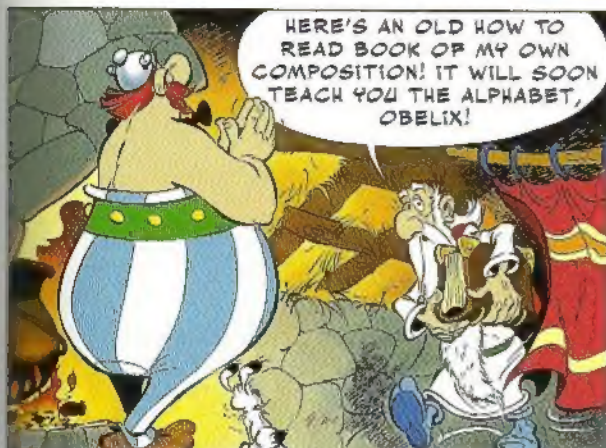
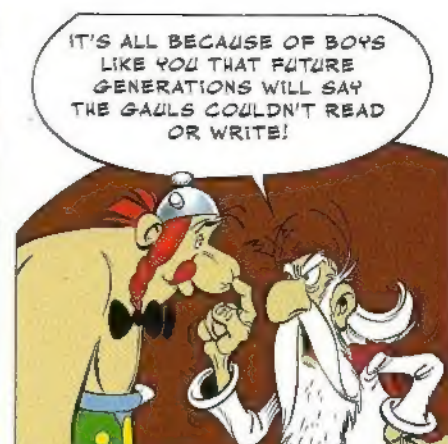
A TRIBUTE TO ANDRÉ FRANQUIN AND HIS MARSUPIALAI

\* THESE ROMANS ARE CRAZY!











AND EARLY IN THE MORNING ...

I WONDER IF THE  
DRUID'S MEDICINE  
HAS DONE POOR OLD  
OBELIX GOOD?

DEAR ME, YOU  
DON'T SEEM TO  
BE ANY BETTER,  
OBELIX!

OH, ASTERIX, IF  
ONLY YOU KNEW HOW  
UNHAPPY I AM!

WHAT'S WRONG  
WITH YOU, OBELIX?  
YOU CAN TELL ME!  
I'M YOUR FRIEND!

I HAVE A  
GREAT BIG  
PROBLEM, AND I  
CAN'T SOLVE IT!

I GOT THIS CARVED  
SLAB FROM PANACEA!  
SO I ASKED GETAFIX TO  
TEACH ME TO READ ...

I'M BEGINNING  
TO GET THE  
IDEA!

HE GAVE ME THIS ALPHABET  
BOOK. I'VE SPENT ALL NIGHT  
TRYING TO WORK OUT WHAT  
PANACEA SAYS, AND I STILL DON'T  
UNDERSTAND IT !!!

I'VE WORKED OUT WHAT IT SAYS ON THE SLAB,  
SO SEE IF YOU CAN MAKE SENSE OF IT: "DOLMEN, ELK,  
ASS, RAT, OTTER, BUCK, ELK, LION, IBIS, A LETTER  
I DON'T KNOW, HEDGEHOG, ASS, PEACOCK, PEACOCK,  
YAK, BUCK, IBIS, RAT, TIGER, HEDGEHOG, DOLMEN,  
ASS, YAK, PEACOCK, ASS, NIGHTINGALE, ASS,  
CAT, ELK, ASS."

ER ... MAY I HAVE  
A LOOK AT IT?

IF YOU  
LIKE!

WHY, IT'S EASY!  
SHE CARVED: "DEAR OBELIX,  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY" AND SHE  
SIGNED IT "PANACEA".

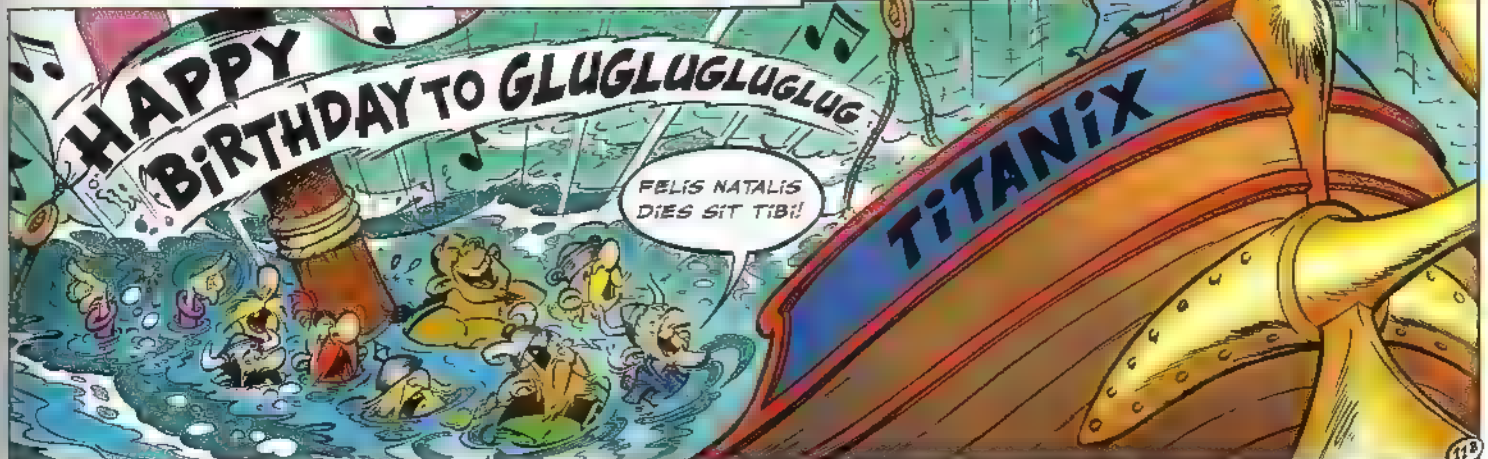
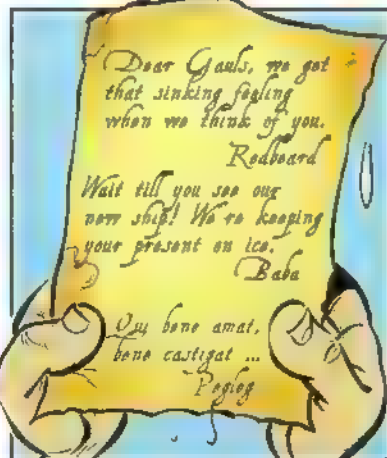
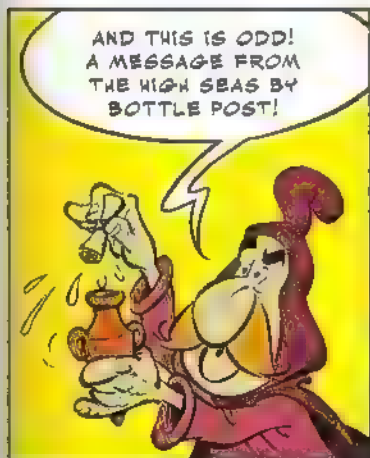
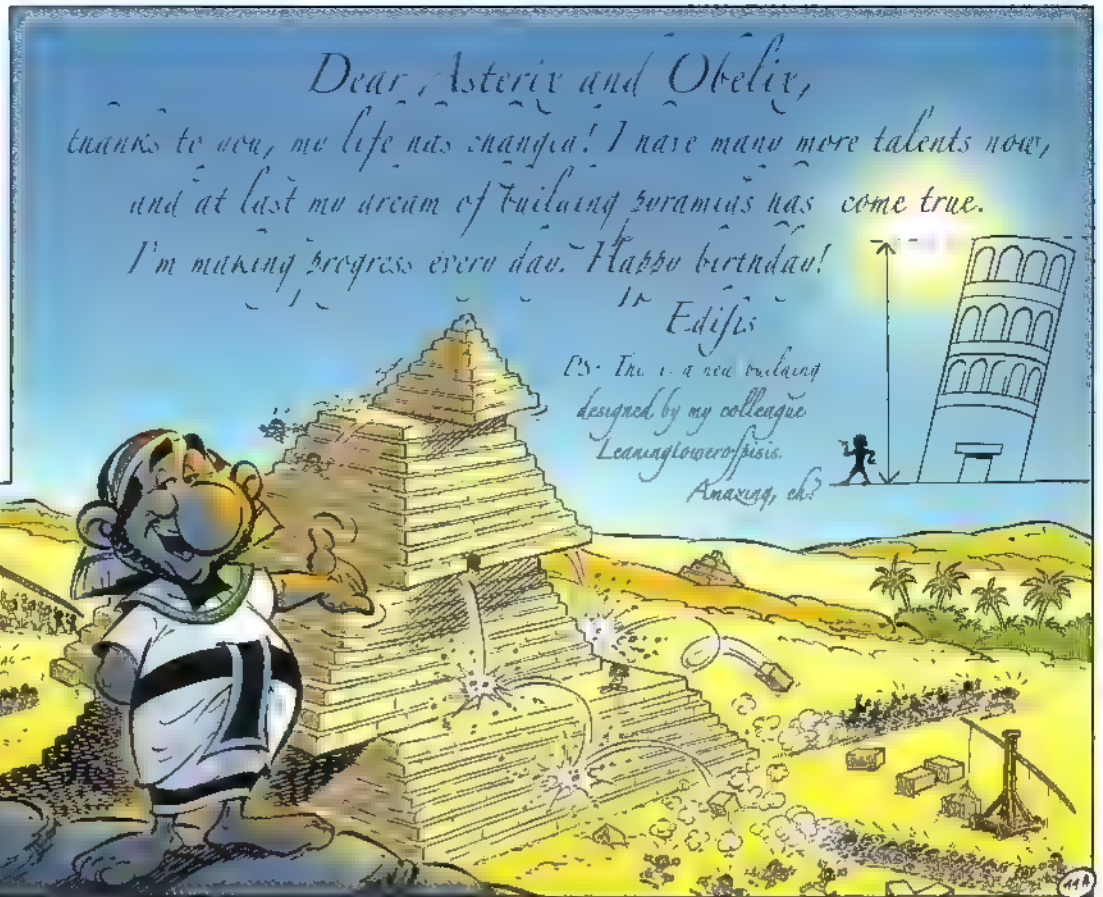
SHE COULD HAVE SENT ME  
A BIRTHDAY SLAB TOO. WE WERE  
BORN ON THE SAME DAY ...

HEY, OBELIX, WHERE  
ARE YOU GOING ...??

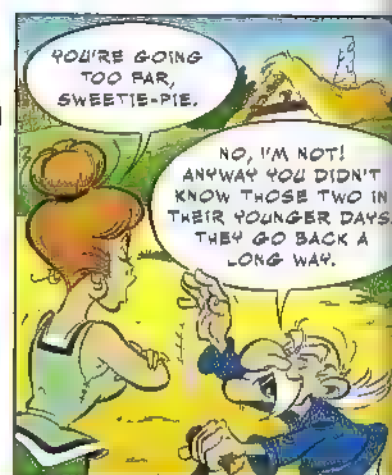
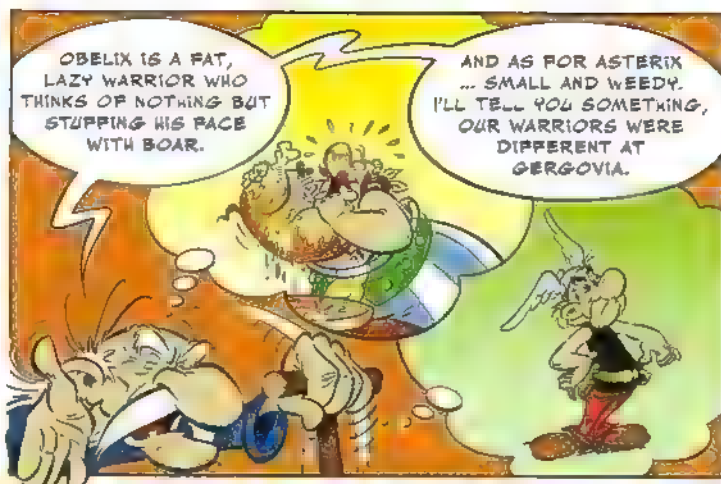
NO! DON'T  
DO IT,  
OBELIX!

SPLAT!

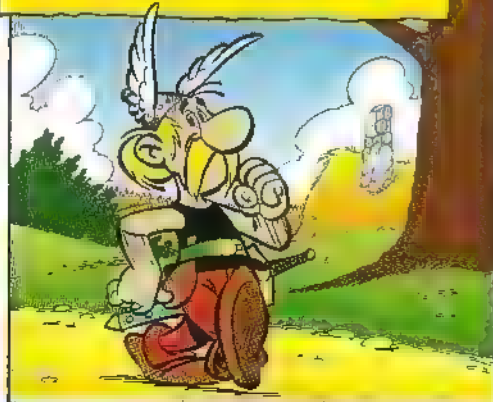








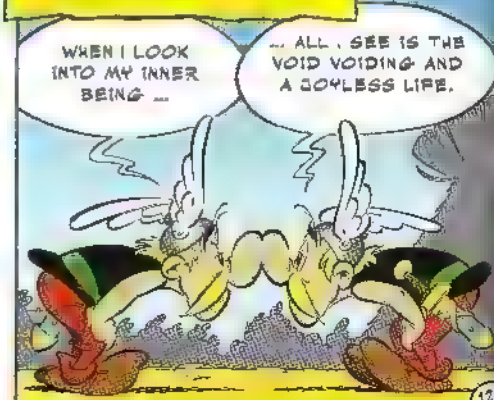
ASTERIX HAS CHANGED. HE WAS NOTHING MUCH IN HIS YOUTH, BELIEVE YOU ME.



AND AN INTELLECTUAL TOO. HE ASKED HIMSELF TOO MANY QUESTIONS.



HE'D GET DEPRESSED AT THE LEAST LITTLE SETBACK ...



HE FELT CRUSHED BY THE WEIGHT OF RESPONSIBILITY!



AND OBELIX DOESN'T HAVE MY VITALITY. YOU SHOULD SEE HIM FIRST THING IN THE MORNING ...



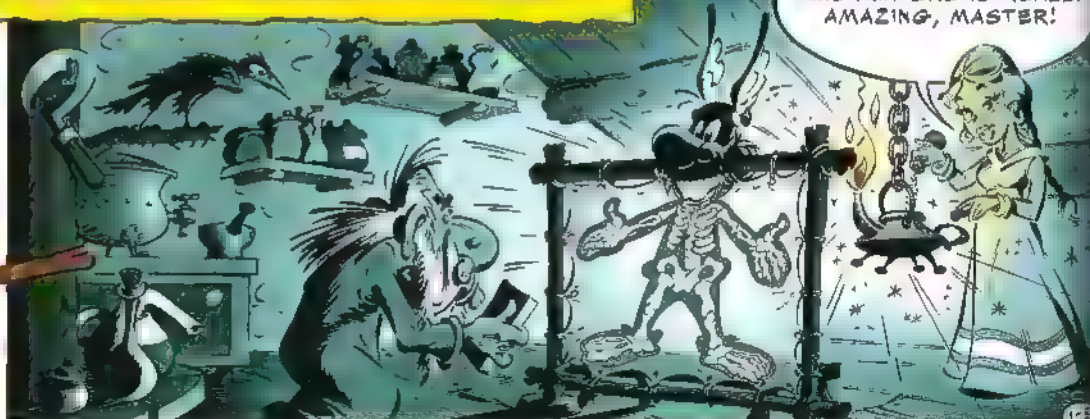
HE CATCHES COLD AT THE LEAST BREATH OF WIND.



THEY WERE NOTHING SPECIAL. SO THE DRUID PSYCHOANALYTIX STEPPED IN.

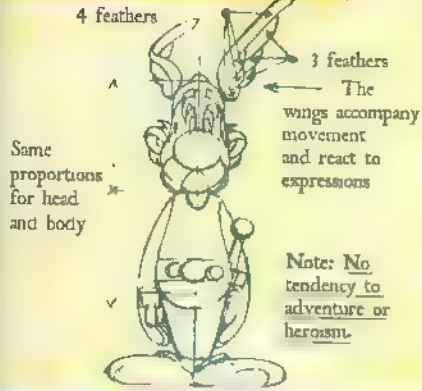


FIRST AN MRI SCAN - MIXTURE RADIATION IMAGING ...





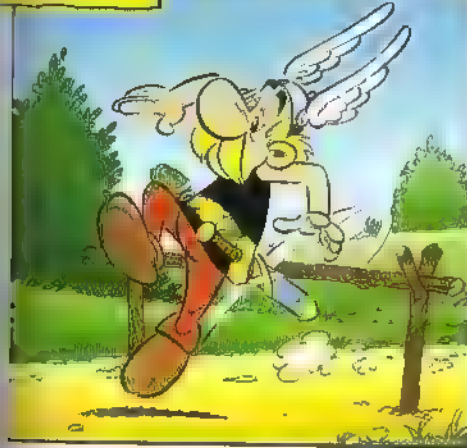
THEN A PRECISE MORPHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION ...



THEN STRENUOUS PHYSICAL EXERCISE: WALKING, RUNNING ...



JUMPING ...



WELL, ALMOST PERFECT ... !

Potential arms, thick neck, wide shoulders; avidous exercise out hunting, daily deliveries of manure, and fun and games with the Romans (his favourite playmates) have given Obelix a perfectly balanced body.

GYMNASTICS ...

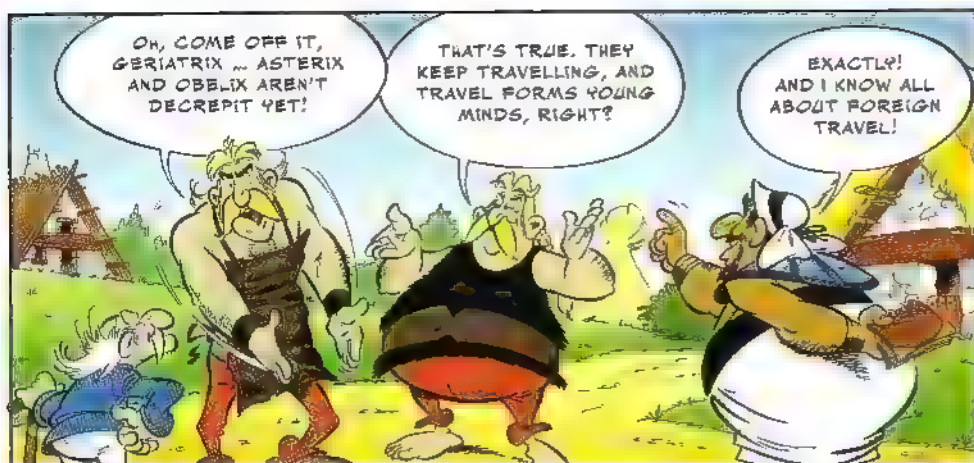


Ecco l'uomo

Measure the height of Obelix from his feet to the top of his head, and if no ruler, that to the line defined by his outstretched hands, the breadth will be equal to the height, inscribed in a perfect square, at the centre of which is Obelix's tummy-button. In mediaeval virtue, say the greatest druids of our time appreciatively. We may notice a nose of generous proportions and a curve unrelated to the classic profile of Hellenic statuary, but after Obelix tasted the aerodynamic style in flight of a calongus who suggested that his round tummy lacked a little of the ideal of Greek beauty, no one has ventured to say

After Leonardo da Vinci





YEAR 1 BC EDITION

# THE CIRCUMBENDIBUS TRAVEL GUIDE<sup>1</sup>

Gauls, do you like to travel? If so our guide, written by an Armorican adventurer, is just the book for you!

Of course the Gauls like to travel, by Toutatis! Here in the village, of course, we don't have far to go. The beach is very close, and there's the forest just inland. All the pleasures of a good holiday can be found here: the seaside with its pirates, mushroom-picking, boar-hunting, and a good laugh with Roman patrols. Not to mention that here in Armorica we have a very invigorating climate. In short, it's rather like being on holiday all the year round for the Romans and us.

## THE PLEASURES OF THE SEASIDE PIRATES

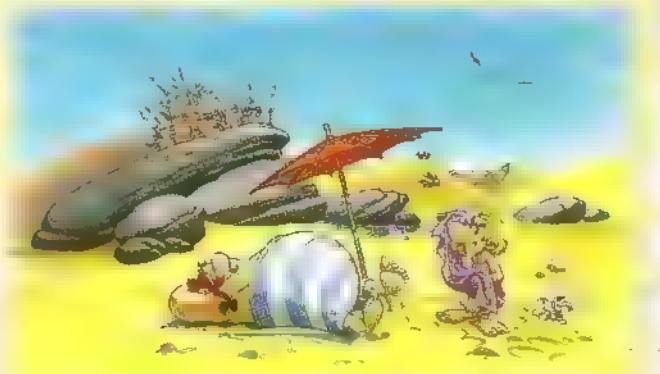


Frames from Asterix at the Olympic Games

## LEISURE ACTIVITIES ON HOLIDAY

A RELAXING MOMENT ON AN ARMORICAN BEACH

*A bracing climate, lovely blue skies ... and lifeguards on the watch!*



## FUN AND GAMES WITH FRIENDS



*Don't leave those you love! Take advantage of our group travel rates.*

*To avoid inconvenience, follow the advice in the Cicumbendibus Guide when booking your holiday.*

<sup>1</sup> Lucius C.cumbendibus, a big wheel in wheel manufacturing (see *Asterix and the Chieftain's Shield*), published this famous guide to the best Gaulish inns.



**T**hose of our countrymen who aren't so lucky, meaning everyone else, start thinking about their holidays in the month of Januarius<sup>1</sup> onwards. If you want to go away in Quintilis<sup>2</sup> or Sextilis<sup>3</sup> you have to plan in advance. After the month of Aprilis<sup>4</sup> there are no seaside villas left to be booked along the coast, and the only subject of conversation is what the weather will be like in summer. ("Mind you, there's a lot of climate change these days. All those Roman war machines will make the sky fall on our heads one of these days!")

**S**ome people disapprove of this attitude. "What's Gaul coming to?" they ask. "In the good old days people thought of work and nothing but work!" But even these sensible souls are not the last to set out for the southern provinces. It's the beaches of the Middle Sea that attract most tourists: Nicae, Antipolis, Forum Julii, Citharista, Olbia, Heraclea Caccabaria, Carsicis<sup>5</sup> and Athenopolis<sup>6</sup> are full of teeming crowds looking for pleasure all summer. (Particularly Athenopolis, frequented by people from the ancient world, the high society of Lutetia, and the beatnix, those strange barbarians who don't plait or wash their long hair. Some say they're like that after getting nicely stoned at Nicae.)

1 -- January

2 -- Soon to be called Julius in honour of Caesar, and later July

3 -- To be renamed Augustus and then August

4 -- April

5 -- Respectively: Nice, Antibes, Fréjus, La Ciotat, Hyères, Cavalaire, Cassis

6 -- Small Massilian place near present-day Saint Tropez

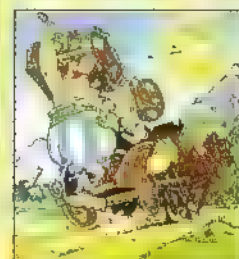
## GETTING ORGANIZED

*How to pack.  
Try to take only the  
essentials.*



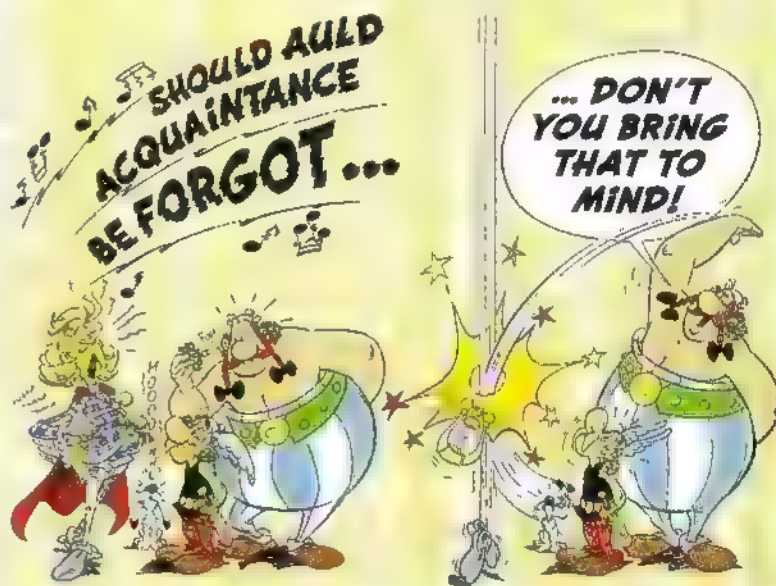
*To avoid ending up in a  
shady sort of inn, reserve  
in advance!*

*For getting around, opt  
for a Gaulish-registered  
chariot*



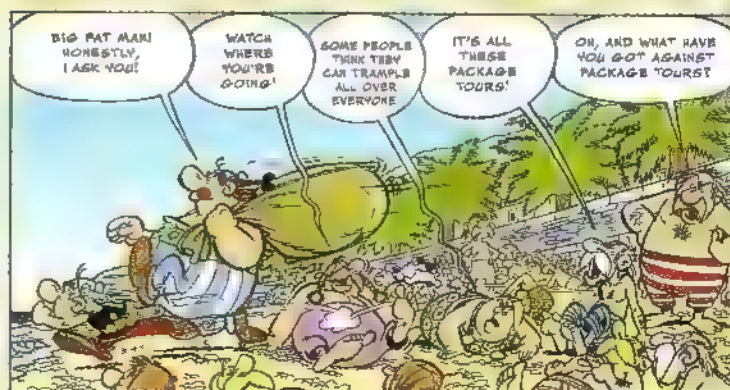
## A SUCCESSFUL DEPARTURE

*The moment comes to part and say goodbye  
Sensitive souls look away!*



## THE PLEASURES OF THE MIDDLE SEA

*A little relaxation on the beach at Niue nothing like it for making new friends!*

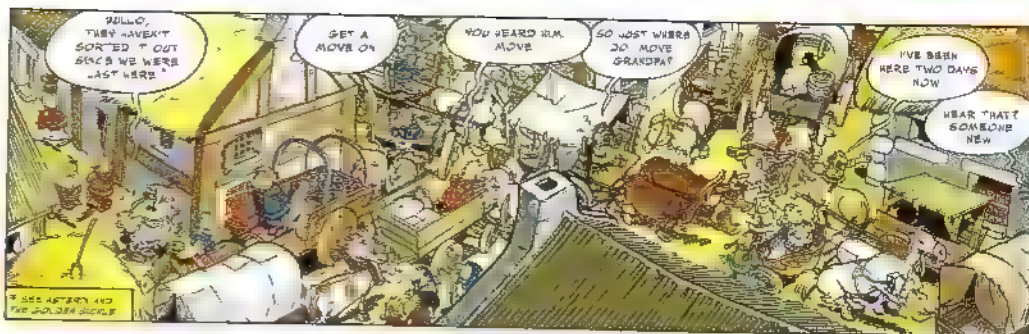




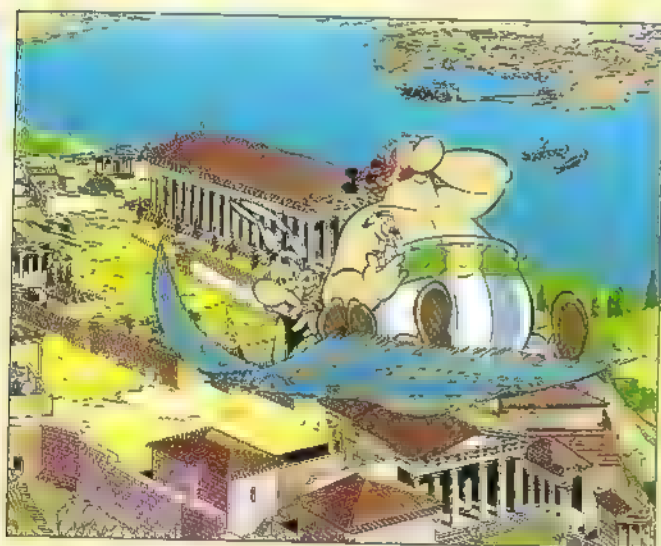
Of course, the trouble is that, with everyone leaving at the same time and going the same way, the roads are crowded and, sadly, there are many

accidents. Some of those are due to careless drivers hell-bent on high speed, never mind the risk to life and limb. You hear idiots saying: "Yes, old boy, Lutetia to Nicae in only three weeks non-stop!" As if two weeks more or less meant anything in a man's life!

Roman patrols do their best to enforce the Pax Romana on the roads. The laws are being tightened up, and there's talk of throwing those careless drivers who are the worst offenders to the lions, but so far that has come to nothing, and the RPOF (Roman Policing Operations Forum) is trying to impose some semblance of discipline as best it can.



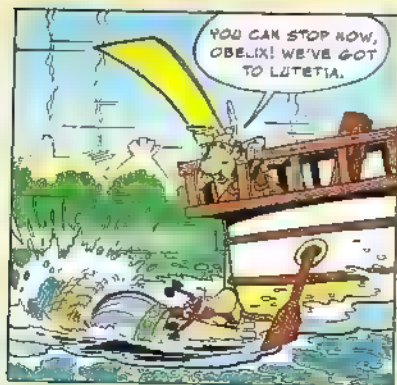
Frame from Astérix and the Banquet



Take to the air to avoid the holiday crowds. Travel by magic carpet!

## HOW TO AVOID CROWDED ROADS

IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID CROWDED ROADS FULL OF HOLIDAY TRAFFIC AND TAILBACKS. HERE'S OUR ADVICE FOR TRAVELLING MORE EASILY.



Travel with Obelix to avoid amphora-necks!



Enjoy the peace and calm of the ocean. Travel by canoe and meet new friends.



Fly above the clouds, and cure yourself for ever of fearing that the sky will fall on your head!



It has to be said, in defence of road users, that the design of the Roman road network is ancient. The authorities built roads paved with stone slabs which are no longer up to the pressure of modern traffic. They are cluttered up by ox-drawn haulage carts, and overtaking them is always dangerous. Nor do I think that imposing a speed limit of III millia passuum an hour<sup>1</sup> on all vehicles will solve the problem. And I doubt whether sending bad drivers to the Circus is a good idea, although the lions seem to think so. The roads must be widened and ring roads built around towns and villages. Anyone who has driven through Lugdunum will know what I mean.

Meanwhile people go on taking risks and suffering from road rage as they hurl insults at each other. "I'm going to barbecue those oxen of yours!" "Get going, rapa<sup>2</sup>-face!" "I'm not tailgating you for ever, raeda lenta<sup>3</sup>! Let me by!" "I'm working! I'm a slave, I am! I'm not here for fun!" "You're a slave, eh? If I was your master I'd trade you in for a donkey. Donkeys work better, they're prettier and more intelligent!" "Want to know what the donkey says to you?" And so on.



It's not unusual to see what ought to have been a pleasant excursion degenerate into a pitched battle, leading to amphora-necks and tailbacks paralysing the traffic for millia and millia passuum.



## ROMAN ROADS GUARANTEED C% FOR ALL MOD CONS



*With servitudes, chariotels and service stations along the way, every effort has been made to provide for the comfort of chariot drivers!*

1 About 4.5 kph    2 Turnip eaten instead of potatoes    3 Latin, slow coach



Two amphorae, watch out!"

understand: it's not a good idea to eat a  
y to travel. But we Gauls are greedy  
esist one last hornful of  
slabs up beside the roads  
ra can kill as easily as an

GET THE TERRARY

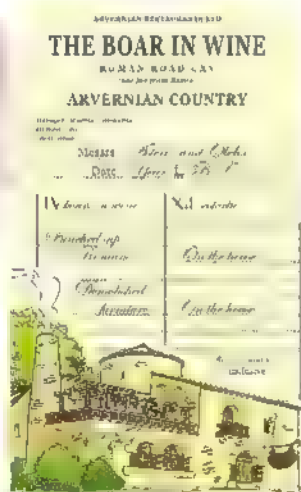
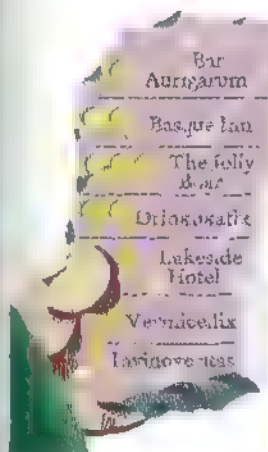
YES ASTRIX  
AND THIS IS AB LIST  
ALL THE BEST AND  
ALONG OUR WAY

AB LIST  
The best

### 1 Present-day Modena



There are also the inns along your way. It's better not to stop on the off chance, because you may have a nasty surprise when the bill arrives, and your wallet could suffer a sizeable catapult-hole. Of course, if you like fancy cooking you'll find luxury establishments rated by golden sickles in the specialist guides, places where you can eat pâté of ants' thighs, stuffed nightingale tongues and candied trout-heads. But if you prefer simple fare, stop at one of the places with transport carts parked outside. You'll find a friendly atmosphere where they serve you good roast boar, chilled barley beer, and hydromel like Mater makes it.



If you want a place to stay on your way, it's best to reserve in advance, or you may have to sleep the night in your chariot. Many like to go camping, but then you should follow the example of the Romans: never forget to dig a ditch and put up a fence around your tent. That will keep out attacking barbarians, who are sometimes a nuisance and spoil your good night's sleep.

Finally, I must add that only prudent Gauls enjoy their travels, but I wish all of you happy holidays!

## HOLIDAY IDEAS

### THE WONDERS OF EGYPT

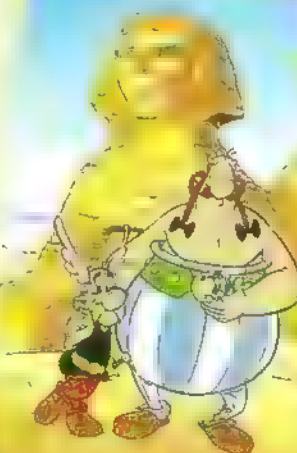


*Egypt and its queen of queens. Nothing but happy memories for the Gauls. We're not so sure about Cleopatra*

*Adventurers at heart will enjoy a stay in the middle of the desert. An unexpected encounter with your deepest longings!*



*To impress your friends, have souvenir pictures carved in front of historic monuments.*



*Britain, with its evergreen bard groups and legendary warm-water time. These Britons are crazy!*



# PUT YOUR TRAVELS ON THE MAP

Useful accessories to take, souvenirs from foreign lands:  
everything you need for going away  
in times of classical antiquity.

- I.  
**Ticket for the Regional Eurostella Routes**  
public chariot company
- II.  
**Set of Viking drinking skulls,**  
great fun for merry evenings at home with friends!
- III.  
**Postcard slabs.**  
To keep in touch with your loved ones.
- IV.  
**Souvenir of the greatest city in the universe.**
- V.  
**Travel guide,**  
to make sure you don't miss anything!
- VI.  
**Gourd of NSP.**  
Don't lose your bearings!  
This gourd of North Star potion will help you find them again any time  
Exclusively brewed by Viking magicians.
- VII.  
**Shipwrecked galley.**  
Do you enjoy sport?  
Prepare to board a pirate ship (optional)
- VIII.  
**A few sestertii.**  
Collectors: keep the loose change from every province.  
Egyptian talents are the most sought after
- IX.  
**Club Middle Sea brochure slab.**  
Lots of leisure activities in idyllic surroundings
- X.  
**Pyramid paperweight.**  
The Great Pyramid in the snow.  
You dream of it, the Egyptians make it!
- XI.  
**Passport.**  
Issued by the Imperial authorities  
You will need one of these to move freely around  
all the countries that are part of the Pax Romana.







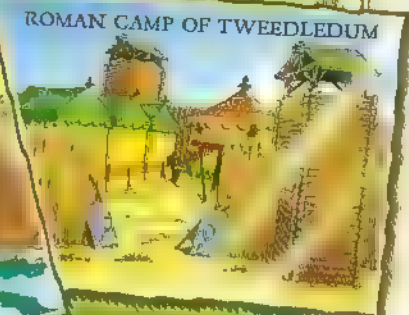
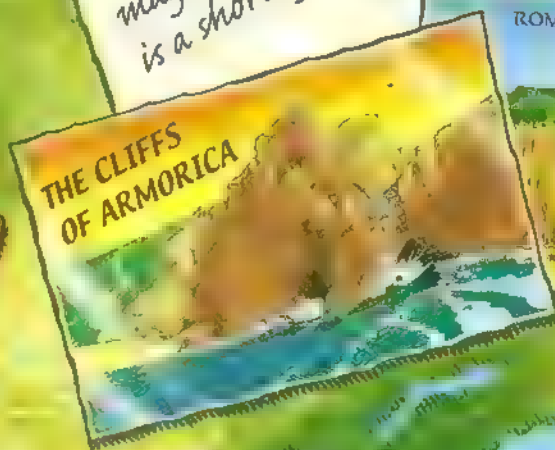
II

The scenery is magnificent, but there is a shortage of Romans!  
Obelix

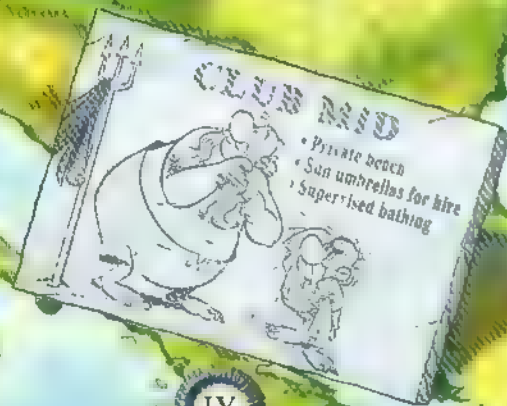
III



V



VIII



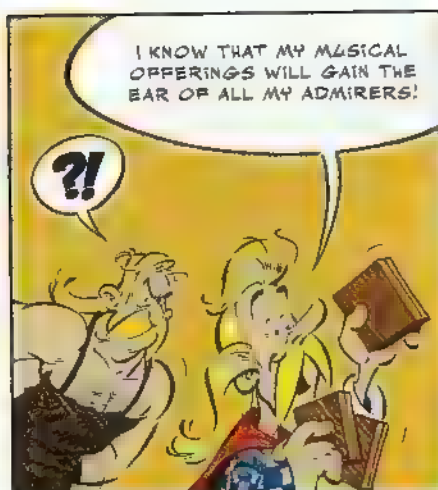
IX

FOREIGN TRAVEL IS ALL VERY WELL, BUT RATHER DULL WITHOUT MUSIC.

X



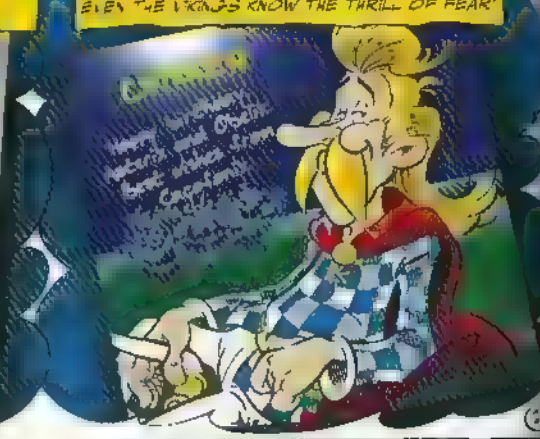
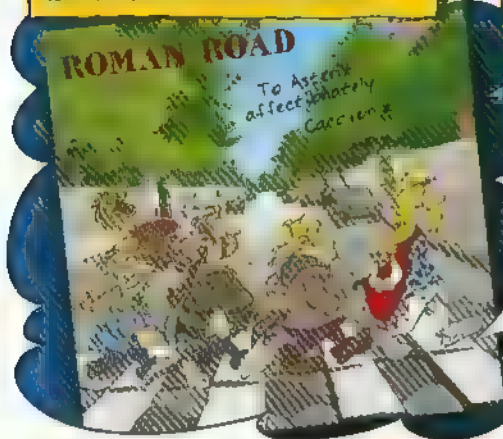




ROMAN ROAD FOR ASTERIX

THESE ROMANS ARE CRAZY ONE OF MY BIGGEST HITS, FOR OBELIX

AND FINALLY CHILLER GUARANTEED TO MAKE EVEN THE VIKINGS KNOW THE THRILL OF FEAR!





UNIMPRESSED BY CACOPONIX'S IDEAS FOR PRESENTS, IMPEDIMENTA INVITES THE GAULISH LADIES IN FOR A NICE CUPPA.

COME WITH ME! WE'RE GOING TO DISCUSS PRESENTS FOR ASTERIX AND OBELIX OVER A GOAT'S MILK.

A PRESENT FOR ASTERIX AND OBELIX? AT THEIR AGE, THEY'D DO BETTER TO GET MARRIED!

EXACTLY! THEIR MOTHERS, SARSAPARILLA AND VANILLA, HAVE ASKED ME TO FIND PEARLS OF PERFECTION FOR OUR HEROES.

ASTERIX IS A HOPELESS CASE. I DID WHAT I COULD, BUT ...

I FEAR POOR OBELIX HAS EYES ONLY FOR ME.

OBELIX? HUH! HE HAS EYES ONLY FOR HIS ROMANS AND HIS BOARDS.

I'M AFRAID IT'S A FACT THAT THOSE TWO WARRIORS KNOW NOTHING ABOUT TENDER AFFECTION.

AND AMOROUS PASSION HAS THEM BAPPLIED.

THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH DEFEATIST TALK! THEY NEED WOMEN OF CHARACTER TO BRING A LITTLE ORDER INTO THEIR LIVES.

EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN WHOM THEY CAN LOOK UP TO!

23A

23B





Geriatric Wins Lutetia Marathon!

**Daily Lutetian**  
No. XXXIX  
Year I. BC  
spqr lutetiandaily ga

**Asterix the Gaul Weds!**

LET'S NOT GIVE UP HOPE! I'M SURE ASTERIX WILL HAVE A WONDERFUL FAIRY-TALE WEDDING SOME DAY!

**Cacophonix Farewell Tour**  
The famous American band returns to give a very concert he gives it the spectators who say goodbye head him in page VIII

**Wild boar classified a protected species**  
First reaction from disengaged consumers: "Hoohoo-hoo, sniff!"  
Complete Roman legion of highly trained men, mounting the fighting formation known as the Lorraine, savagely attacked by superior numbers in a formation of two.  
Our investigation on page XVI

**Delicacies of Aleria**  
Special Offer: Under one sestertius per kilo until the next new moon!  
The best Corsican cheese  
... it is a great pleasure to eat it ...  
... it is a great pleasure to eat it ...

**Former girl-friend jealous**  
"He blacked my eye first!"  
Revealed on page V

**Social Register** All is euphoric in the one small village: a formidable Gauls still holding out against the Roman invaders. Asterix the most confirmed of bachelors celebrates his wedding. Julius Caesar, although injured, decided to stay in Rome bestowing the Honesta Mission on several veteran legions.  
All details pages II to VI

XXXIX X MCMIX  
XXXXX



AND THE LOVING CARE OF A WIFE COULD CERTAINLY MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE TO ONE OF THEM!



HERE'S YOUR LITTLE CHICKEN, OBELIX SWEETIE-PIE! ONLY THREE MORE LITTLE KILOS TO LOSE AND YOU'LL BE IN PERFECT SHAPE!



BUT IT'S A FACT THAT, AS MY PIE GERIATRIX HONEY-BUN ALWAYS SAYS, IT'S RARE TO FIND A WIFE LIKE ME.

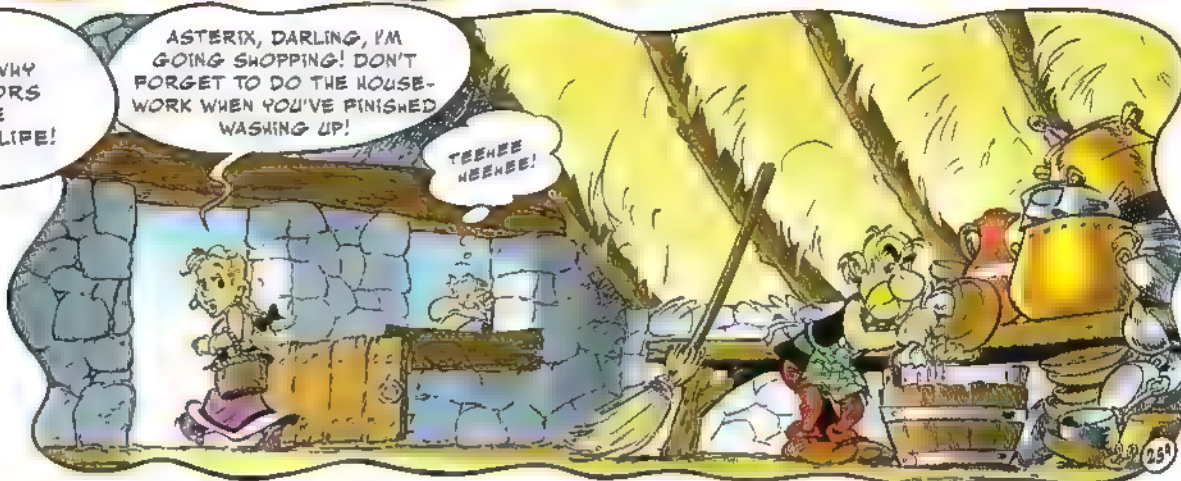


HMPH! YES, WELL ... WELL, NONE OF THIS TELLS US WHY THOSE TWO OLD BACHELORS SHOW NO INTEREST IN THE PLEASURES OF MARRIED LIFE!



ASTERIX, DARLING, I'M GOING SHOPPING! DON'T FORGET TO DO THE HOUSEWORK WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED WASHING UP!

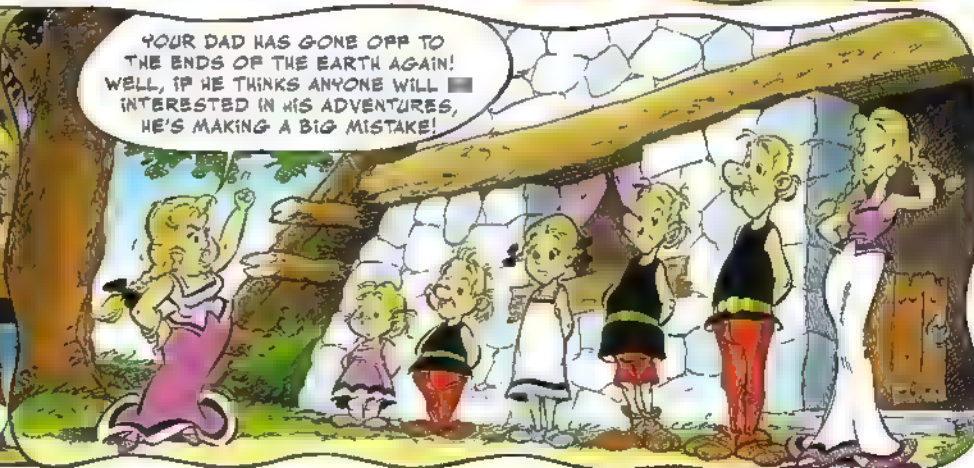
TEHEE HEHEE!



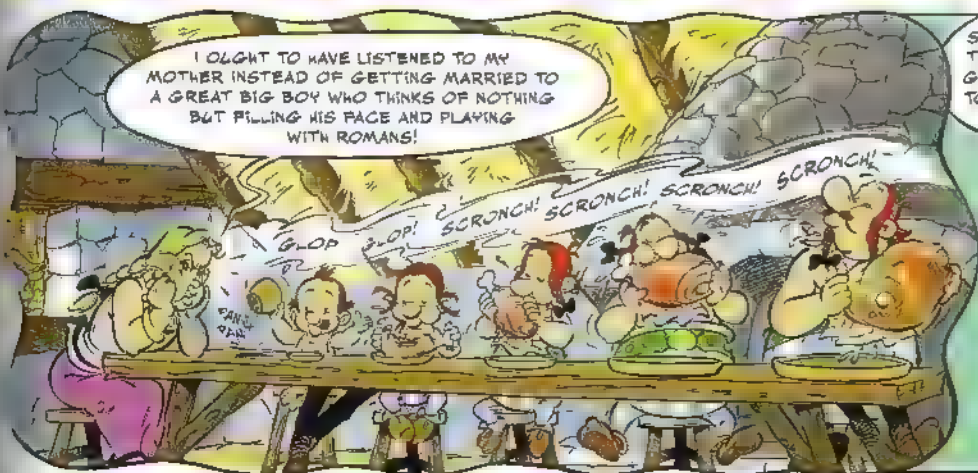
SO WE MIGHT AS WELL STOP FEELING SORRY FOR THEM AND THINK OF THE TERRIBLE LIFE THEIR WIVES WOULD LEAD!



YOUR DAD HAS GONE OFF TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH AGAIN! WELL, IF HE THINKS ANYONE WILL BE INTERESTED IN HIS ADVENTURES, HE'S MAKING A BIG MISTAKE!

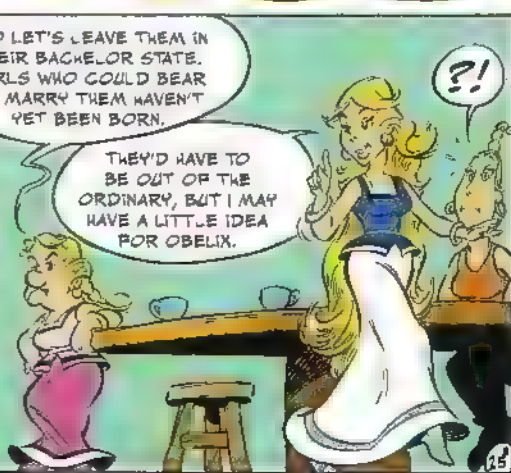


I OUGHT TO HAVE LISTENED TO MY MOTHER INSTEAD OF GETTING MARRIED TO A GREAT BIG BOY WHO THINKS OF NOTHING BUT FILLING HIS FACE AND PLAYING WITH ROMANS!



SO LET'S LEAVE THEM IN THEIR BACHELOR STATE. GIRLS WHO COULD BEAR TO MARRY THEM HAVEN'T YET BEEN BORN.

THEY'D HAVE TO BE OUT OF THE ORDINARY, BUT I MAY HAVE A LITTLE IDEA FOR OBELIX.









MEANWHILE, IN THE VILLAGE SQUARE, THERE ARE MANY IDEAS IN THE AIR ...

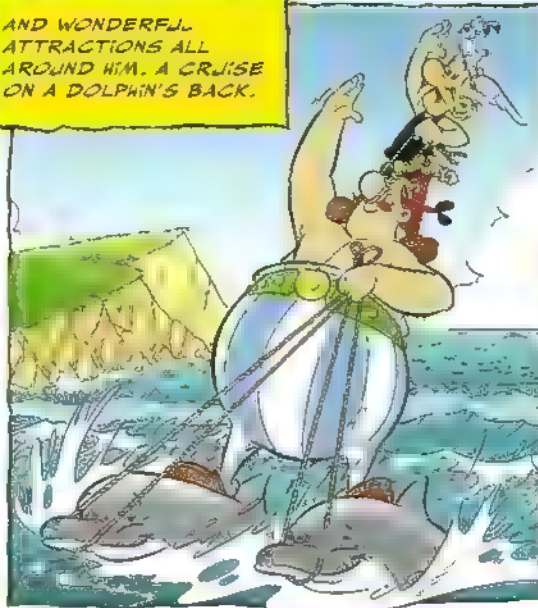


WITH A BIG AUTOMATED STATUE OF ASTERIX AT THE CENTRE!

Movement of head

Movement of wings

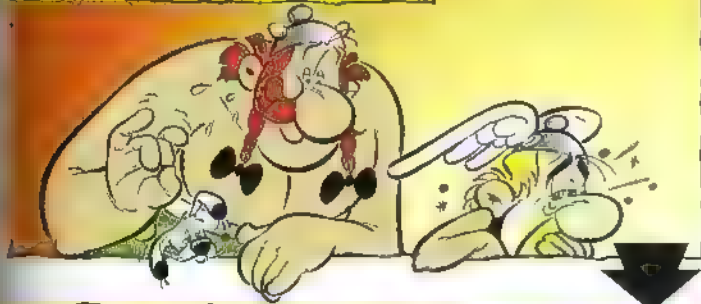
AND WONDERFUL ATTRACTIONS ALL AROUND HIM. A CRUISE ON A DOLPHIN'S BACK.



AN AQUATIC BIG DIPPER.

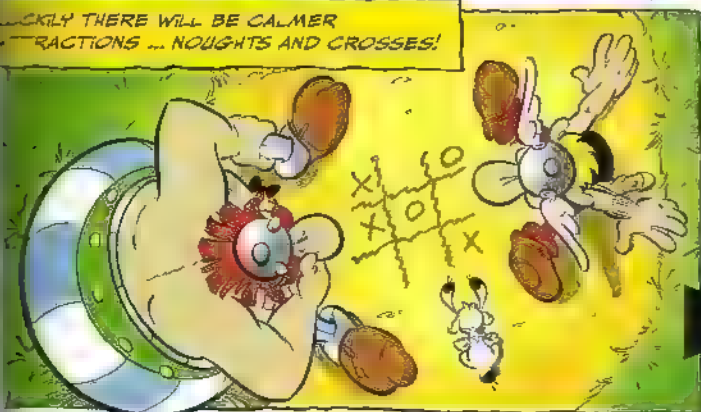


OBELIX WILL LOVE IT! I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT ASTERIX AND DOGMATIX.



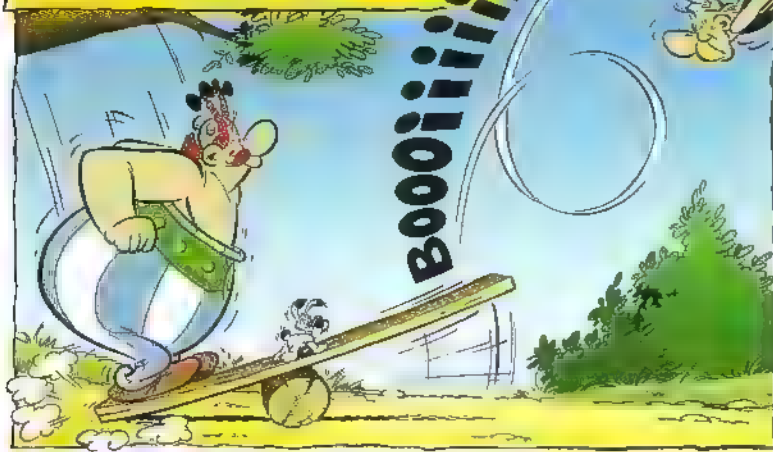
AND PUZZLES FOR OBELIX. HE CARVES LIKE NOBODY'S BUSINESS!

... LUCKILY THERE WILL BE CALMER ATTRACTIONS ... NOUGHTS AND CROSSES!

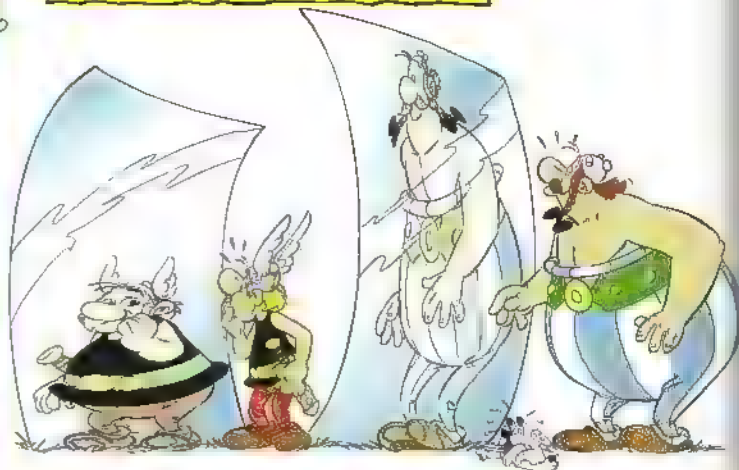




THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A REAL SENSATION: ON THIS SEESAW YOU CAN DANCE A GAULISH FLING.



MY DISTORTING MIRRORS ARE AN INVENTION WHICH WILL LEAVE ASTERIX AND OBELIX FLABBERGASTED.



THERE'LL BE SPORTS IN THE PARK TOO. YOU CAN LEARN HOW TO SLIDE ON THE SNOW ~

### LESSON I

LEARNING TO CONCENTRATE



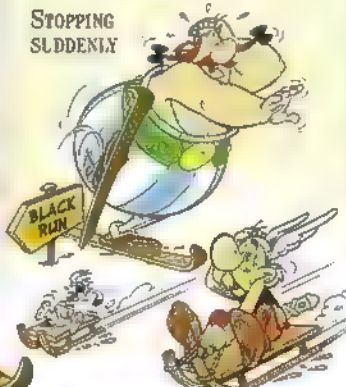
### LESSON II

NOT TAKING YOURSELF TOO SERIOUSLY



### LESSON III

STOPPING SUDDENLY



### LESSON IV

BENDING THE KNEES



AND A GAME GOOD FOR A LAUGH. TEST OBELIX'S FLEXIBILITY!



FINALLY, ROMAN PELOTA, A PASTIME MUCH ENJOYED BY THE INDOMITABLE GAULS!





THE PARK WILL BE A GREAT  
ATTRACTION! THIS WILL GIVE YOU  
SOME IDEA OF ITS SUCCESS.

4. SQUARE ON THE HYPOTENUS PRODUCTIONS	
PROJECT	Indomitable Gauls' Park
SKETCH	Opening day
DATE	Year L BC

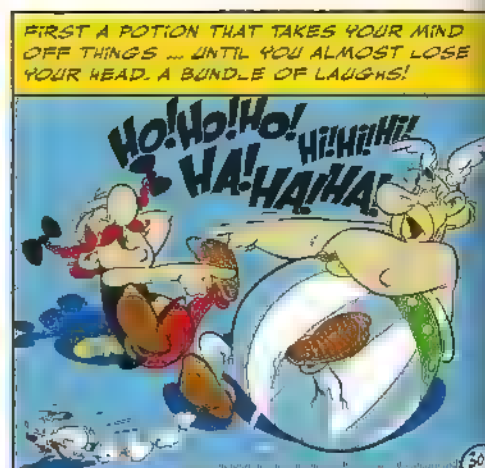
CALM DOWN!  
CALM DOWN! THIS  
ISN'T GERGOVIA,  
YOU KNOW.

SEE ALL THESE PEOPLE,  
ASTERIX? IF A WILD SOW  
LOST HER PIGLETS SHE'D  
NEVER FIND THEM IN THIS  
CROWD.

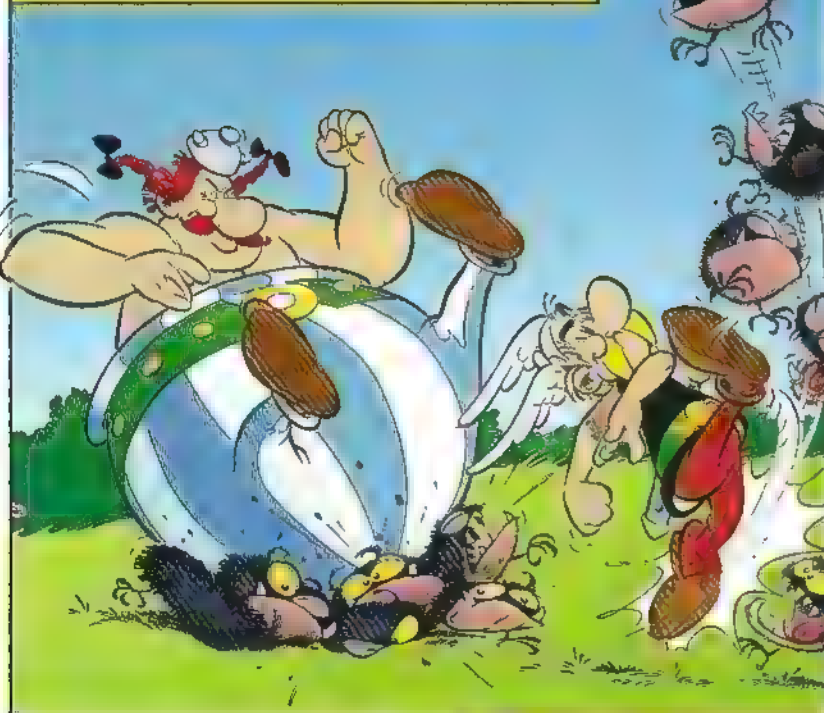
THE LAST TIME I SAW  
SO MANY HAPPY PEOPLE  
WAS WHEN OUR BARD  
LOST HIS VOICE!

THE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE GAULISH  
VILLAGE IS WORTHY  
OF US, BY JUPITER!  
THAT'S WHAT I LIKE  
ABOUT IT.





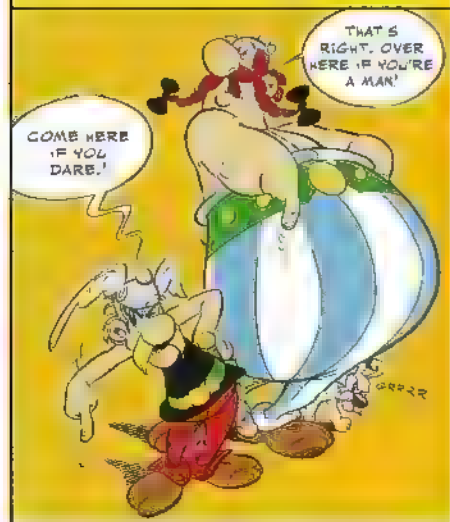
THEN THE POTION THAT CURES DEPRESSION BY CHASING BLACK THOUGHTS AWAY ... FOR GOOD!



THE POTION THAT GUARDS AGAINST THE WEIGHT OF ADVANCING YEARS ... JUST ONE DROP GIVES YOU THE FLOWER POWER OF YOUR YOUTH!



THEN THE POTION THAT GIVES YOU SELF-CONFIDENCE NOTHING AND NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO RESIST YOU!



AND I'VE KEPT THE BEST TILL LAST: MY FRIEND GETAFIX'S FAMOUS MAGIC POTION. ITS EFFECTS, SHOWN IN DETAIL HERE, ARE ALWAYS SURPRISING!

### Effects of the magic potion

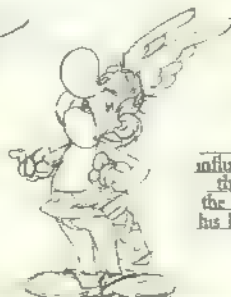
#### Stage 1

All smiles, the happy recipient waits for his dose...



#### Stage 2

Eyeballs closed, he opens his mouth to drink from the druid's ladle.



#### Stage 3

Under the influence of the potion, the subject rises in the air. The wings on his helmet and his feet beat rapidly!

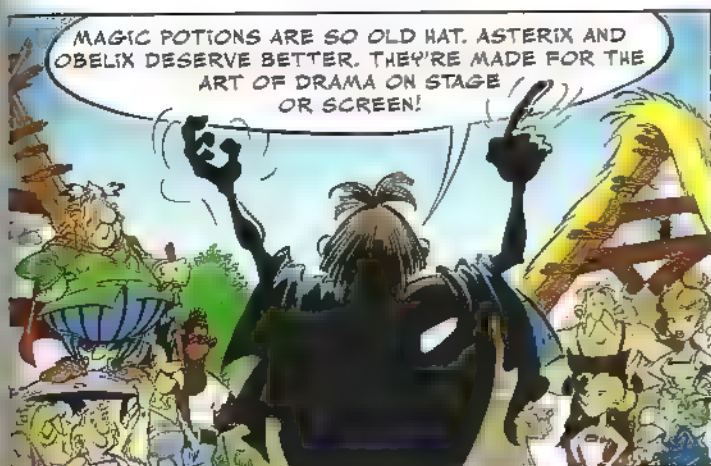


#### Stage 4

Now Asterix has the superhuman strength to attack the entire Roman army!



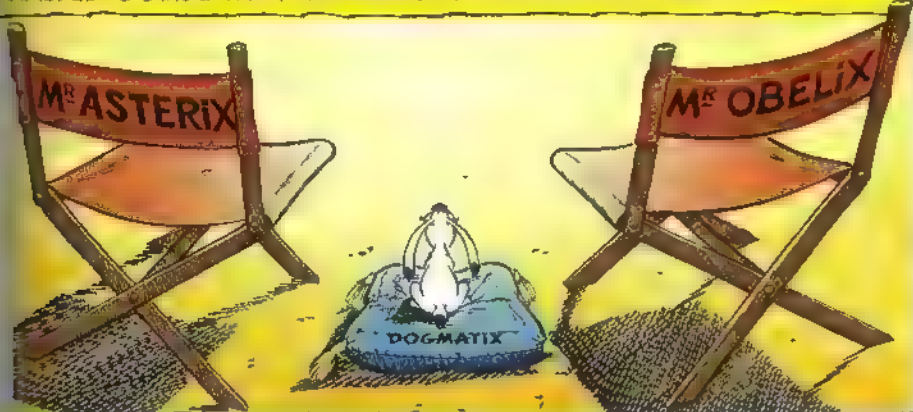




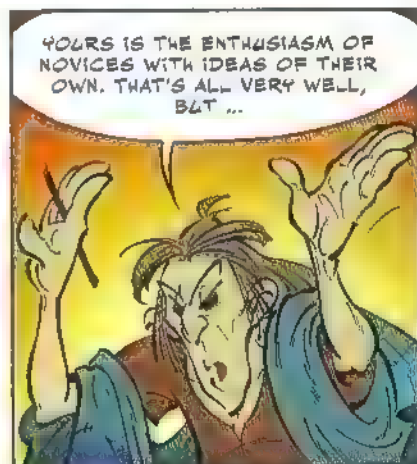
LOOK AT THEM! SUCH CHARISMA! SUCH PRESENCE!



THEY HAVE EVERYTHING THEY NEED TO BE THE MOST FAMOUS HEROES OF OUR TIME! LET'S STAGE THEIR ADVENTURES AS A MAGNIFICENT SPECTACLE!

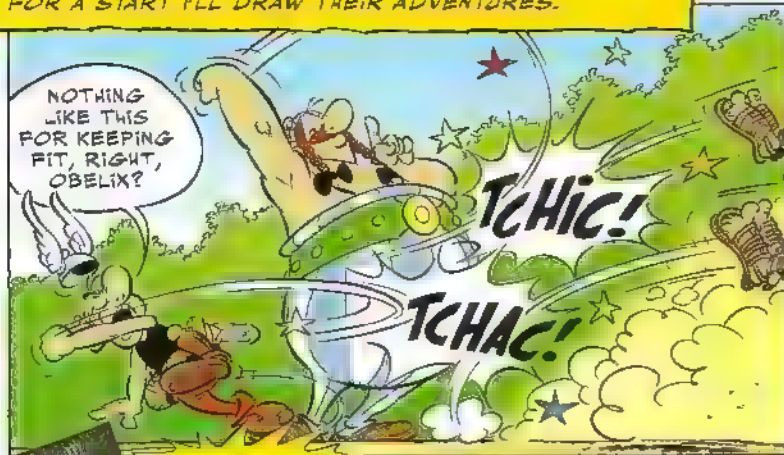


GLORY IS AT HAND, I ASSURE YOU!

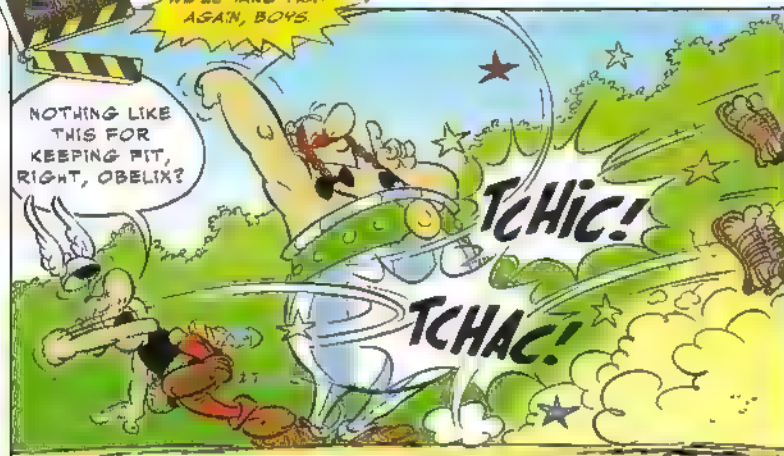




FOR A START I'LL DRAW THEIR ADVENTURES.

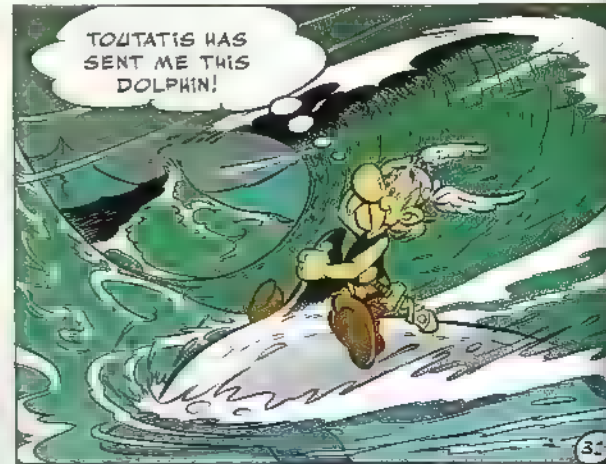
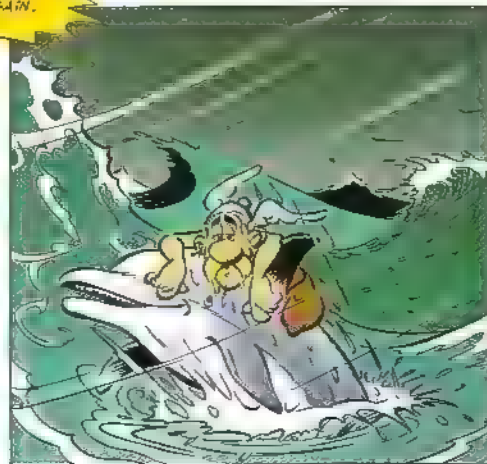


WE'LL TAKE THAT AGAIN, BOYS



I'LL BE CAREFUL TO AVOID MISTAKES WITH UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCES.

IT'S ... IT'S A SHARK!?  
QUINICK! DO SOMETHING!!!



HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, BOYS, WHILE I SHARPEN MY PENCIL.

OOPS! I BOOBED!



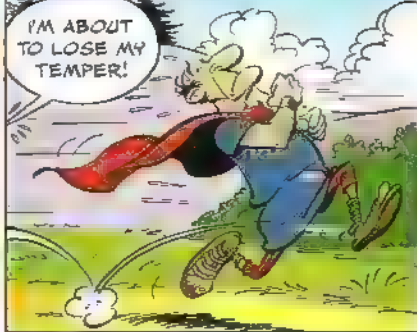
THE ROMANS WILL HAVE THEIR PART TO PLAY, SO WE CAN'T DO WITHOUT THEIR GOODWILL.

**THE ROMAN!  
HE'S MAKING A  
BREAK FOR IT!**



NO, OBELIX! DON'T!

I'M ABOUT  
TO LOSE MY  
TEMPER!



YOU'RE LOSING  
YOUR TOUCH,  
OBELIX!! WE'LL  
TAKE THAT AGAIN.

**BONG!**

I'M HAPPY  
WITH THIS  
ONE!!!

**THE ROMAN!  
HE'S MAKING A  
BREAK FOR IT!**



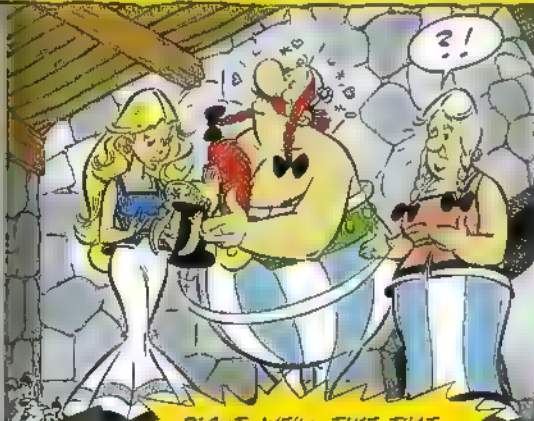
NO, OBELIX! DON'T!

I'M ABOUT  
TO LOSE MY  
TEMPER!



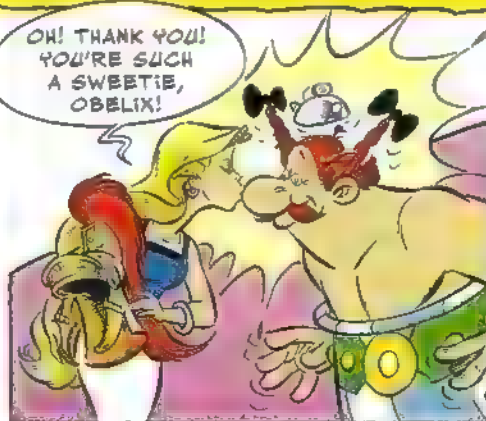
**BONG!**

AS A GENERAL RULE, ALL THE ACTORS MUST DO EXACTLY AS I SAY!



RIGHT, WE'LL TAKE THAT  
AGAIN, AND WE'LL STICK TO  
WHAT I CARVED, OKAY?

OH! THANK YOU!  
YOU'RE SUCH  
A SWEETIE,  
OBELIX!



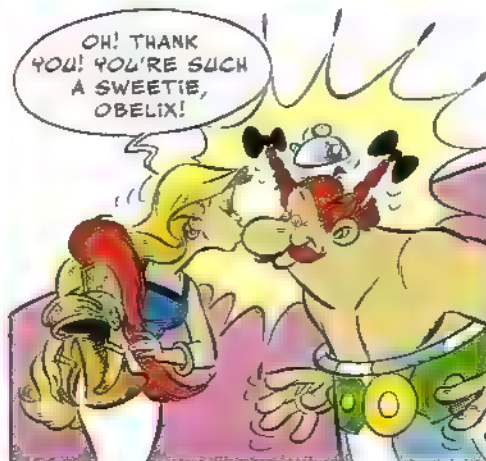
PERSONALLY, I SEE  
THE SCENE MORE  
LIKE THIS!

?! SMACK!

CALM DOWN,  
OBELIX! CALM  
DOWN!



OH! THANK  
YOU! YOU'RE SUCH  
A SWEETIE,  
OBELIX!

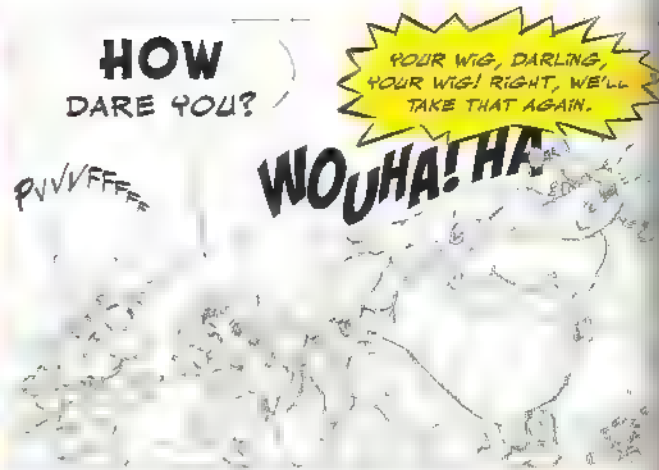
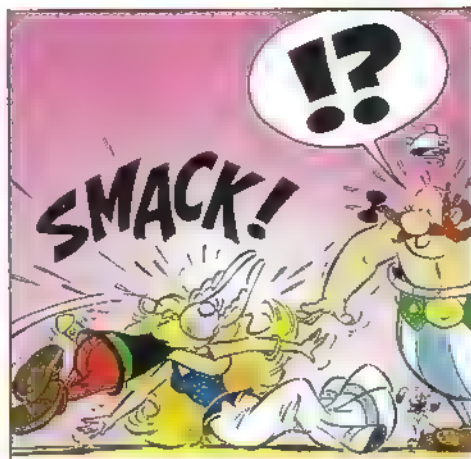
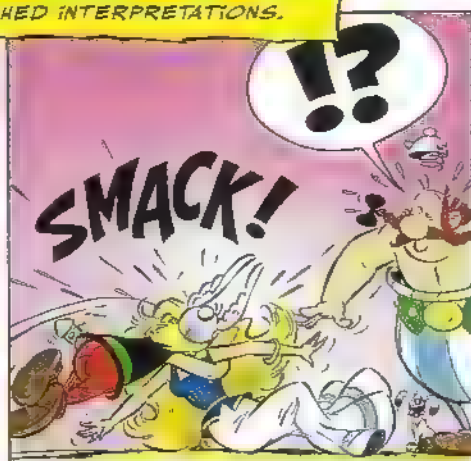
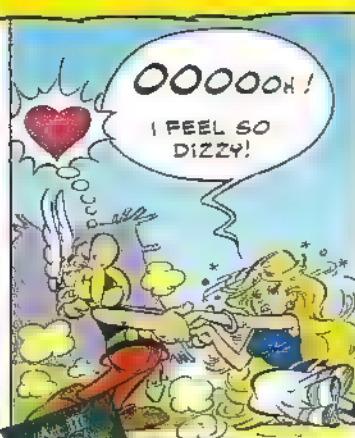


AFTER ALL, YOU'RE FREE TO  
DO AS YOU LIKE WITH YOUR  
PRESENTS, OBELIX!

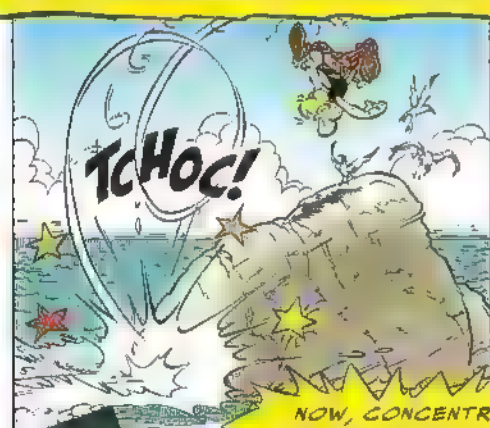




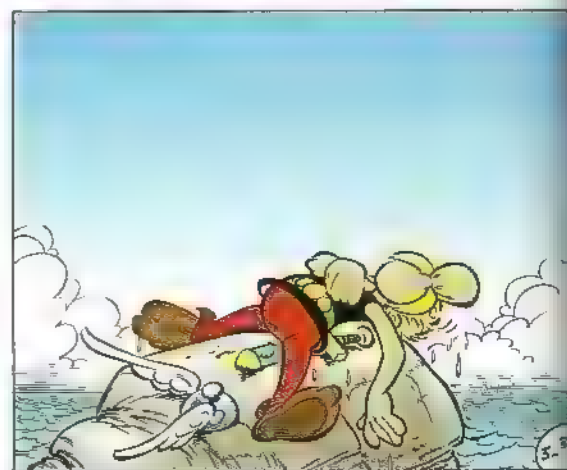
WE WILL AVOID ALL FAR-FETCHED INTERPRETATIONS.



AND OF COURSE I'M NOT HAVING ANY COMPLAINTS FROM THE ACTORS!



NOW, CONCENTRATE. WE'LL TAKE THAT AGAIN WITH LESS SELFISHNESS, THANK YOU!





AND NO CHANGING  
MY DIALOGUE  
EITHER!

WHAT ARE  
YOU THINKING  
OF, ASTERIX?

HMM?

GUESS!  
\*\*\*\*\*

LEAVE OUT THE  
BAD LANGUAGE,  
STICK TO THE  
SCRIPT!

THAT ASTERIX  
IS CRAZY!

TAP!  
TAP!  
TAP!  
TAP!

35 AB

AND THE SHOW WILL BE PUT ON IN A BIG THEATRE SO THAT THE WHOLE VILLAGE CAN ATTEND.

## THESE ROMANS ARE CRAZY !

GOSCINNYRIX  
IN THE PART OF ASTERIX

WITH

UDERZORIX  
IN THE PART OF OBELIX

PRESENTED BY *Vis Comica* PRODUCTIONS

SHOWINGS EXTENDED  
TO XXVII MAIUS BY POPULAR  
REQUEST

THESE ROMANS

ARE CRAZY!

YOUNG PEOPLE,  
YOU ARE ABOUT TO  
WATCH A HIGH-DEFINITION  
SUPER-MAGIC SHOW  
ABOUT OUR  
ADVENTURES.

THIS IS GOING  
TO BE FUNNY,  
OBELIX!

TEHEE!  
IT'S FUNNY  
ALREADY! SEE  
THEIR NOSES?

I DON'T  
KNOW WHY I WASN'T  
ASKED TO SING  
AT THIS EVENT!

WE TOOK OUT  
INSURANCE  
AGAINST IT.

WELL... ER...  
JULIUS CAESAR  
SENT ME ALONG AS  
AN OBSERVER.

HEY! YOU,  
ROMAN! WHAT  
ARE YOU DOING  
HERE?



AS THE GAULS QUEUE UP, EXCITEMENT AND IMPATIENCE ARE MOUNTING...



DURING THE PERFORMANCE, THE THEATRE ECHOES WITH ROARS OF LAUGHTER AND SHOUTS OF JOY!



THE SHOW WILL CERTAINLY BE THE TALK OF THE ENTIRE KNOWN WORLD!



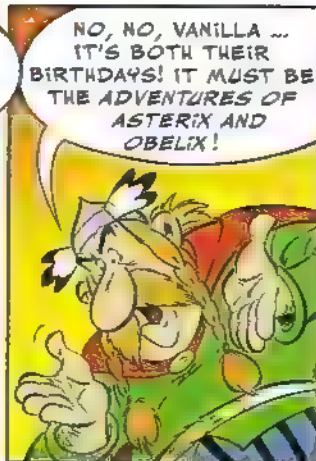


AND THAT'S NOT ALL! I'M DESIGNING GIANT POSTERS TO BRING IN AUDIENCES!

OOH, YES! BIG POSTERS FOR THE ADVENTURES OF OBELIX THE GAUL!

NO, NO, VANILLA ... IT'S BOTH THEIR BIRTHDAYS! IT MUST BE THE ADVENTURES OF ASTERIX AND OBELIX!

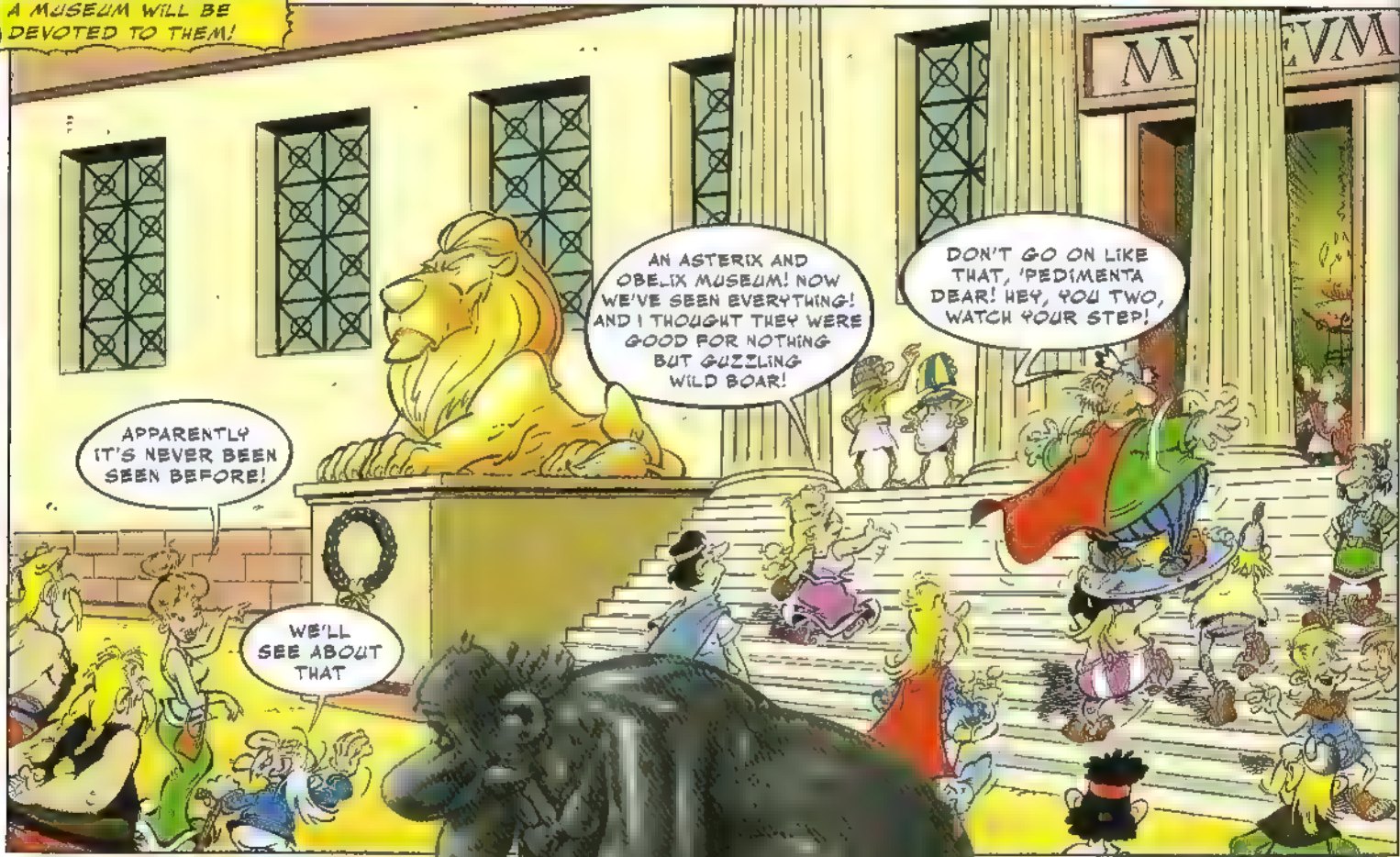
YOU CAN BET NO ONE WILL BE DOING THAT KIND OF THING FOR OUR HUSBANDS!





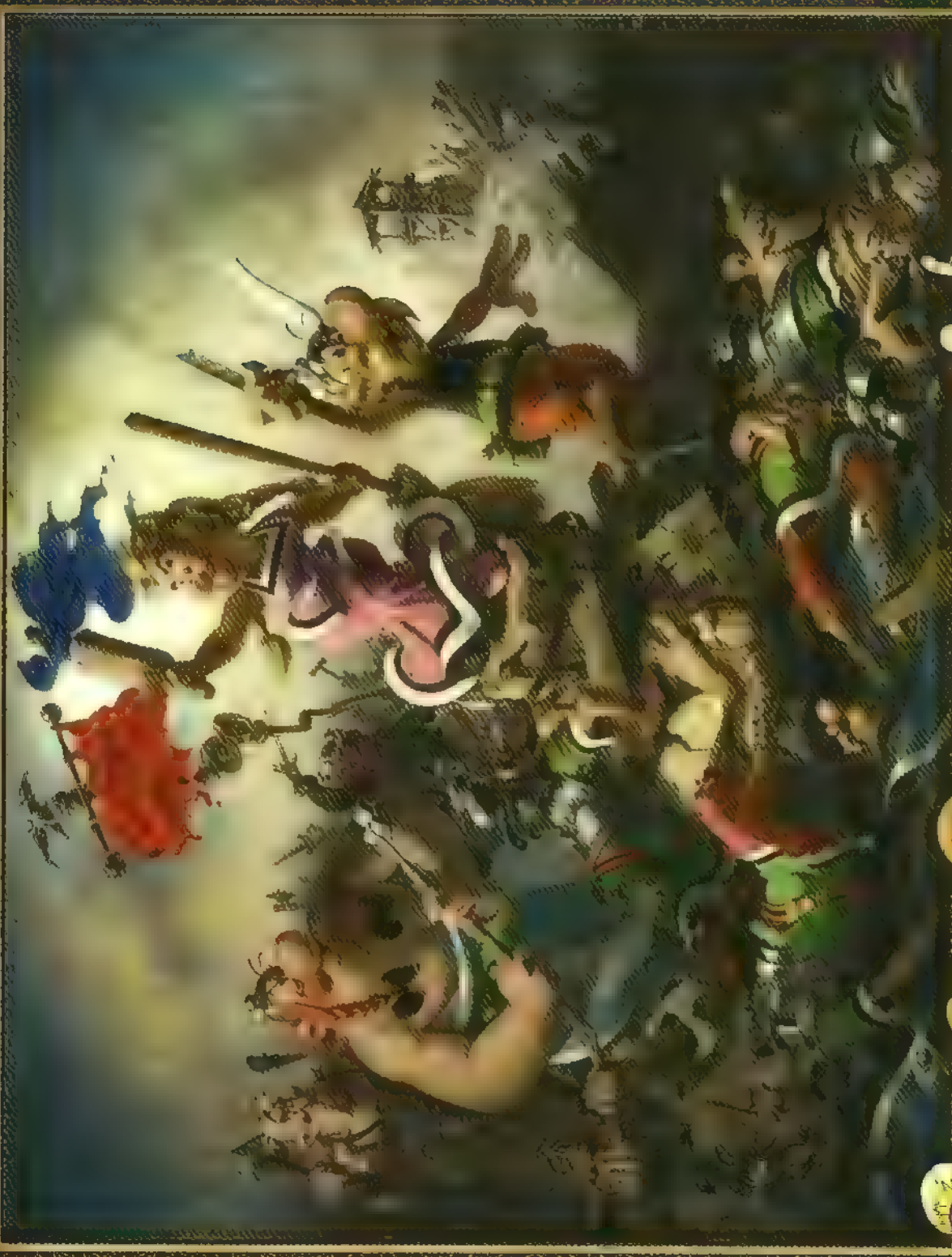


A MUSEUM WILL BE DEVOTED TO THEM!





BUT LUCKILY FOR US BELLA THE ROMANS ALWAYS  
COME BACK, AND SO DOES INSPIRATION!



Atte- Delacroix

THOSE  
COLOURS, THAT  
DRAWING, THAT  
COMPOSITION  
...

ALL  
EXPRESSING  
THE ULTIMOST  
LIBERTY!

IN A  
MANNER OF  
SPEAKING!





AND WITH OBELIX AROUND, THE ROMANS WILL BE PUT THROUGH THE MILL! THE GODS TELL ME THAT A WHOLE GALLERY IN THE MUSEUM WILL BE DEVOTED TO THEM.



APPARENTLY THIS ARTISTIC GENRE IS CALLED A COMPRESSION.

I CAN SEE WHY.

THO CAN I. IT HURTH!

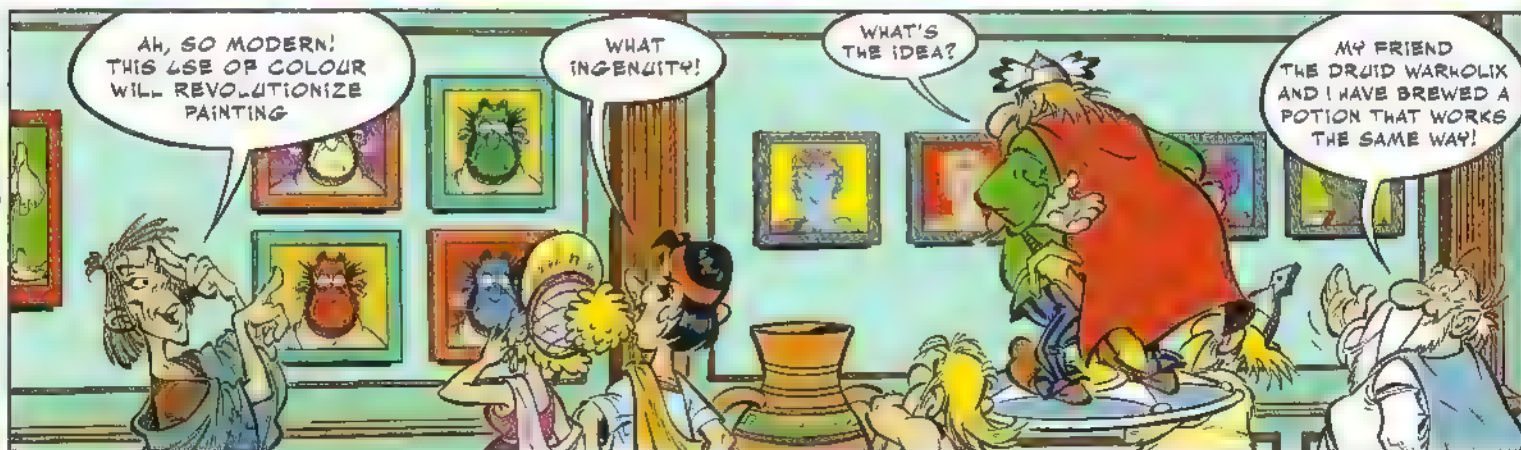


AND THIS ONE'S AN ACCUMULATION.

WHAT A COLLECTION! OUR LEGIONARIES OUGHT TO TOP IT OFF WITH THE HEADS OF THOSE GAULS.

THAT' TH FOR FURE!

Roman helmets  
Year I. BC  
from the artist's personal collection

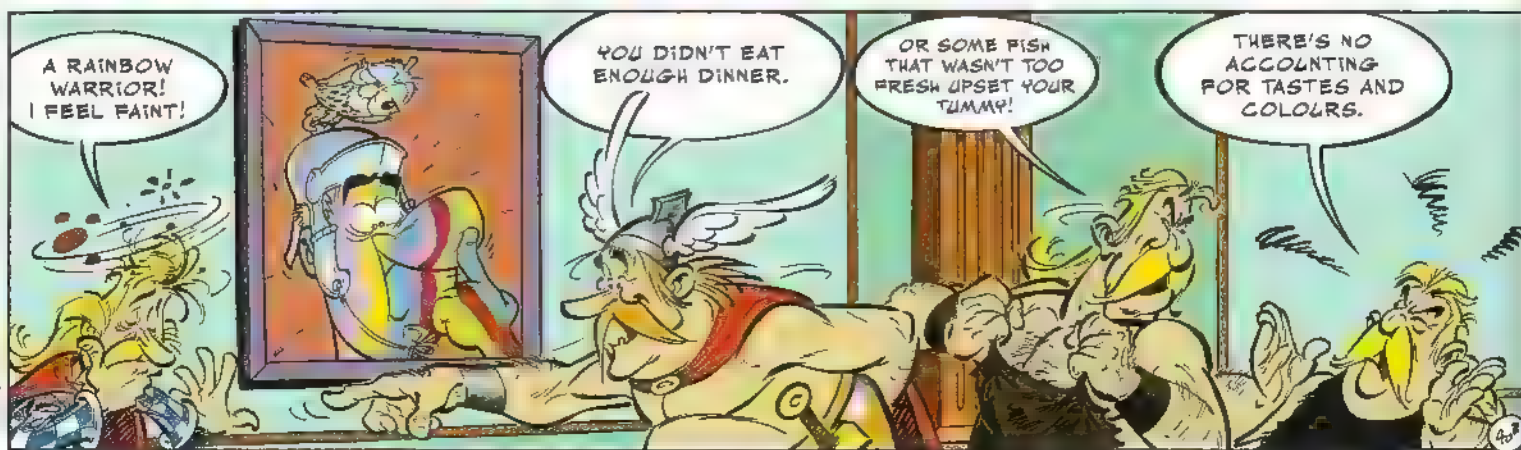


AH, SO MODERN! THIS USE OF COLOUR WILL REVOLUTIONIZE PAINTING

WHAT INGENUITY!

WHAT'S THE IDEA?

MY FRIEND THE DRUID WARKOLIX AND I HAVE BREWED A POTION THAT WORKS THE SAME WAY!



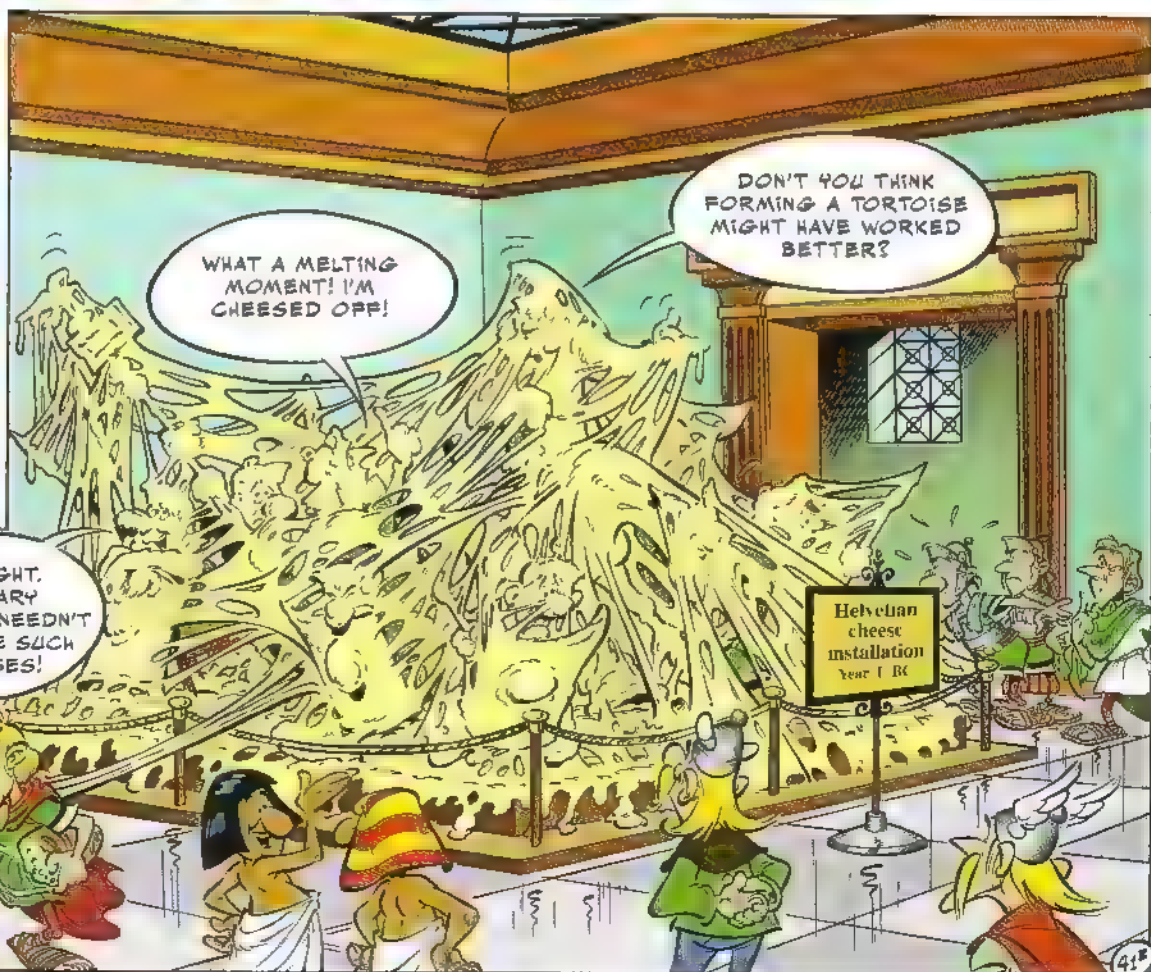
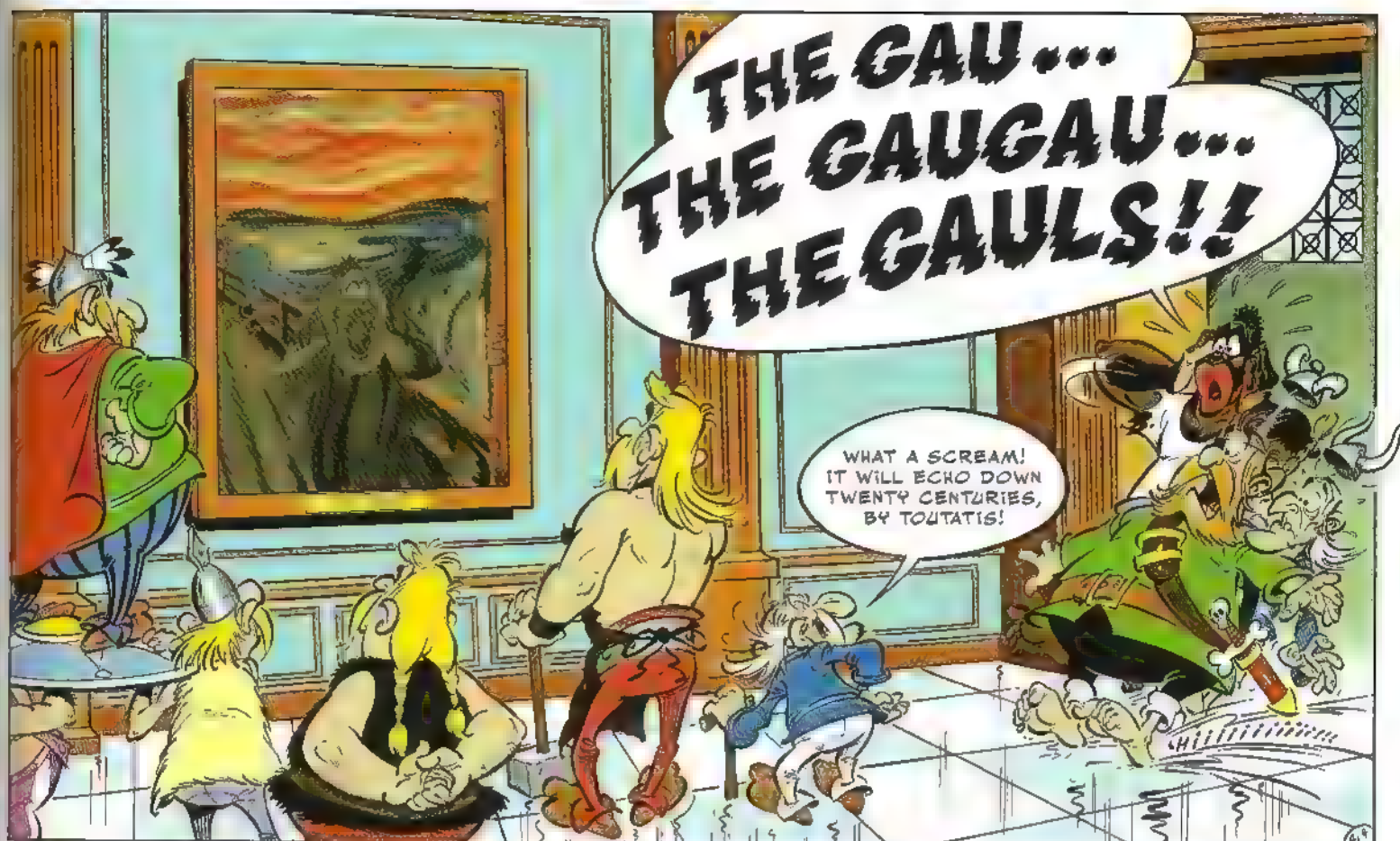
A RAINBOW WARRIOR! I FEEL FAINT!

YOU DIDN'T EAT ENOUGH DINNER.

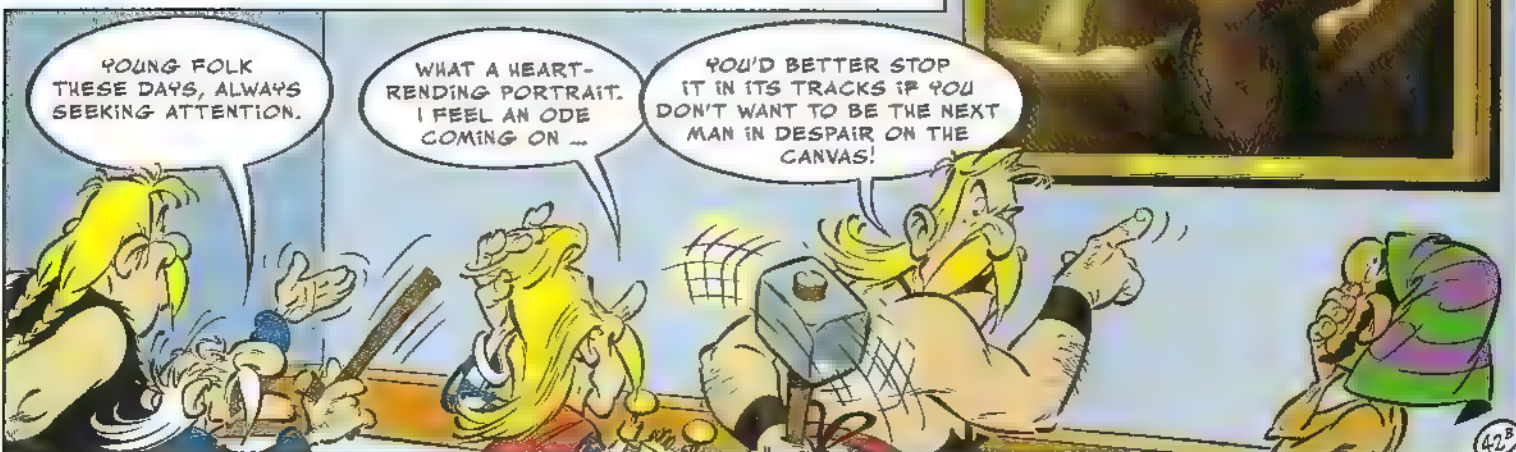
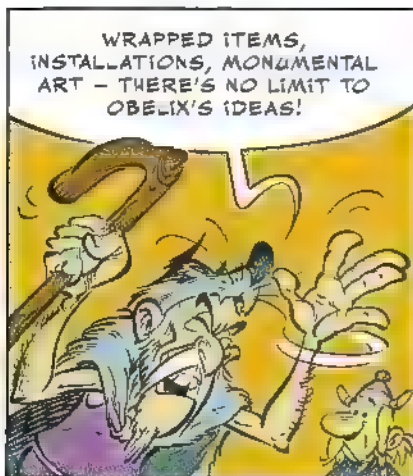
OR SOME FISH THAT WASN'T TOO FRESH UPSET YOUR TUMMY!

THERE'S NO ACCOUNTING FOR TASTES AND COLOURS.











FURTHER ON, A PORTRAIT OF ASTERIX MADE UP OF ALL THE ITEMS BROUGHT BACK FROM HIS FOREIGN TRAVELS WILL BE A TALKING POINT.



DON'T YOU THINK THOSE EARS OF WHEAT LOOK A BIT CORNY?

MAYBE, BUT THE OBELISK WILL LEND HIM WINGS.

A FAN OF MY FISH AT LAST! IT'S GONE TO HIS HEAD!

After Arcimboldo





THE SUMMIT MEETINGS OF THE ANCIENT  
WORLD DO NOT GO UNRECORDED.



I'D LIKE  
TO SEE YOU  
DO IT!

WHAT  
DAZZLING  
BEAUTY!

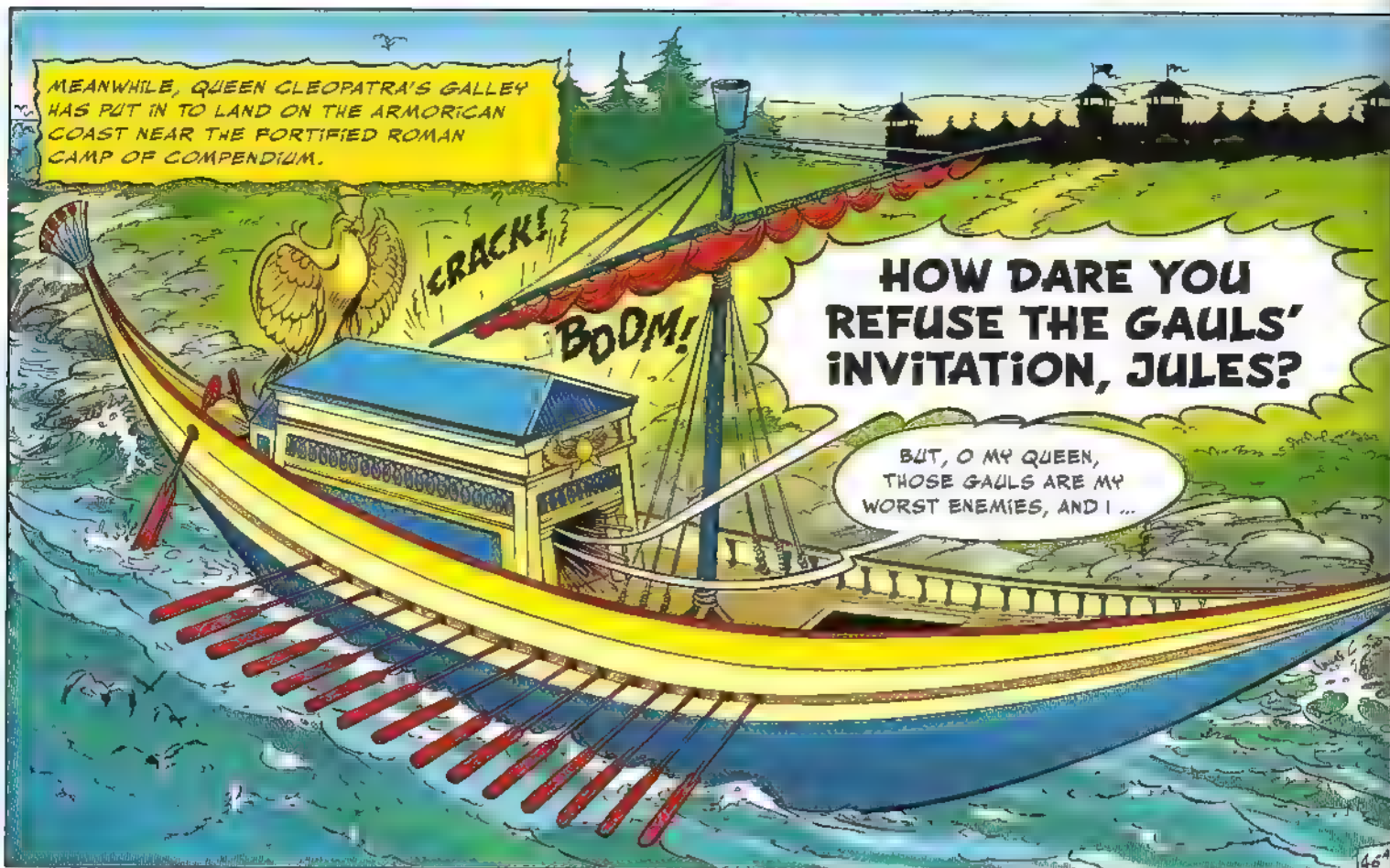
HUN!  
I COULD PLAY THE  
GREAT LADY TOO  
IF I WANTED TO ...

After Manet







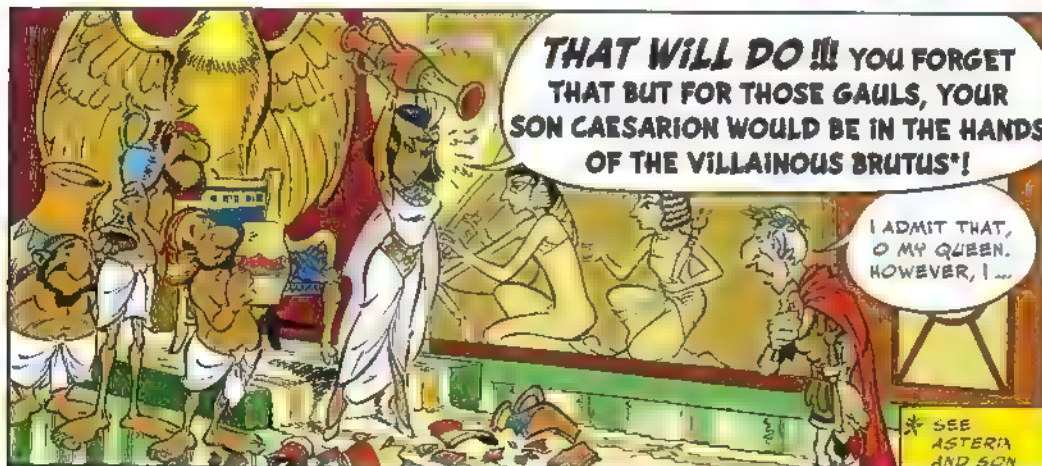


MEANWHILE, QUEEN CLEOPATRA'S GALLEY HAS PUT IN TO LAND ON THE ARMORICAN COAST NEAR THE FORTIFIED ROMAN CAMP OF COMPENDIUM.

**HOW DARE YOU REFUSE THE GAULS' INVITATION, JULES?**

BUT, O MY QUEEN, THOSE GAULS ARE MY WORST ENEMIES, AND I ...

**CRACK!**  
**BOOM!**



**THAT WILL DO !!! YOU FORGET THAT BUT FOR THOSE GAULS, YOUR SON CAESARION WOULD BE IN THE HANDS OF THE VILLAINOUS BRUTUS!**

I ADMIT THAT, O MY QUEEN. HOWEVER, I ...

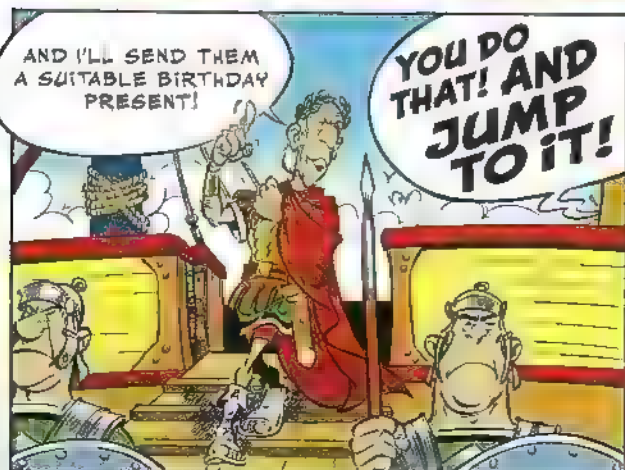
SEE ASTERIA AND SON



**STOP THAT! YOU JUST DO AS I SAY!!!**

OH, ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! I GIVE IN. I'LL REPLY TO THE INVITATION RIGHT AWAY, O QUEEN!

**CRACK!**



AND I'LL SEND THEM A SUITABLE BIRTHDAY PRESENT!

**YOU DO THAT! AND JUMP TO IT!**



WHEN SOMETHING GETS UP CLEOPATRA'S NOSE - IT'S A PRETTY NOSE, ALL THE SAME - SHE LOSES A LITTLE OF HER REGAL DIGNITY!

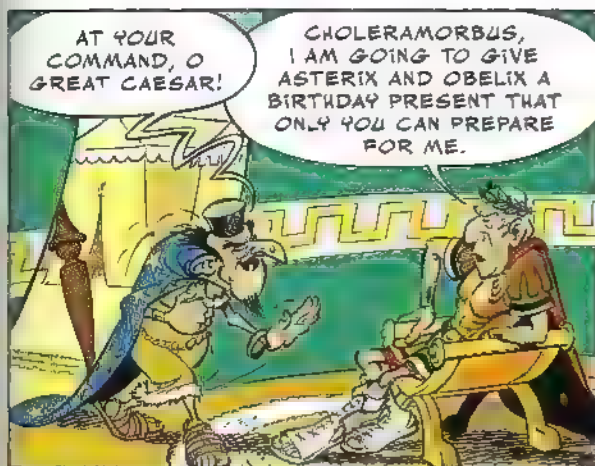


**BACK AT COMPENDIUM ...**

GO AND FIND MY MEDICAMENTARUS\* THE MAN WHO CONCOCTS MY UNGUENTS! ILLICO PRESTO!

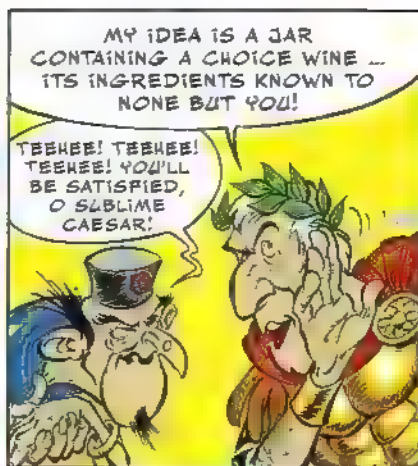
PHARMACIST





AT YOUR  
COMMAND, O  
GREAT CAESAR!

CHOLERAMORBUS,  
I AM GOING TO GIVE  
ASTERIX AND OBELIX A  
BIRTHDAY PRESENT THAT  
ONLY YOU CAN PREPARE  
FOR ME.



MY IDEA IS A JAR  
CONTAINING A CHOICE WINE ...  
ITS INGREDIENTS KNOWN TO  
NONE BUT YOU!

TEEHHEE! TEEHHEE!  
TEEHHEE! YOU'LL  
BE SATISFIED,  
O SUBLIME  
CAESAR!



HO, HO! THIS WAY I'LL KILL  
TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!  
I'LL SATISFY CLEOPATRA AND  
TAKE REVENGE ON THOSE  
INFERNAL GAULS!



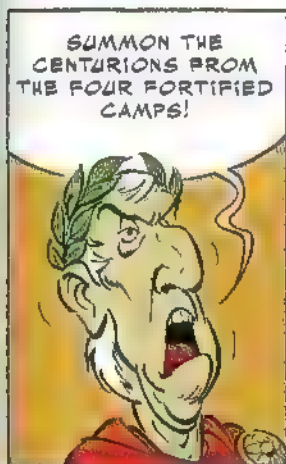
LATER ...

THIS IS WHAT YOU WANTED,  
MOST GREAT CAESAR!  
A VINTAGE THAT WILL HAVE  
THOSE WHO TASTE IT ROLLING  
THEIR EYES! TEEHHEE TEEHHEE  
TEEHHEE!!



FOR YOUR SERVICES,  
CHOLERAMORBUS!

MAY JUPITER  
PROTECT YOU TO THE  
END OF TIME, MOST  
SUBLIME CAESAR!



SUMMON THE  
CENTURIONS FROM  
THE FOUR FORTIFIED  
CAMPS!



AVE CAESAR! THOSE WHO  
ARE ABOUT TO SERVE YOU  
SALUTE YOU!

YES, AVE, AVE!  
I'M SENDING  
YOU ON A  
MISSION!



YOU ARE TO BE MY  
AMBASSADORS AND TAKE THIS  
JAR TO THE GAULISH VILLAGE!

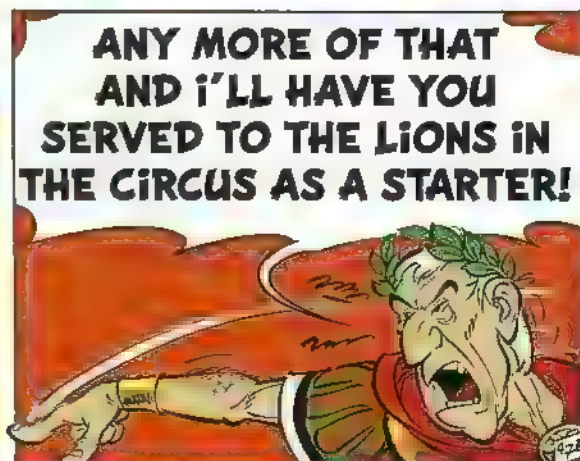


ER ... THE  
VILLAGE OF  
MADMEN?

THAT'S A ...  
KIND OF A  
DELICATE  
OPERATION

CAN WE AT  
LEAST TAKE OUR  
RESPECTIVE  
CENTURIES WITH  
US?

THE FACT IS I'M ...  
I'M NOT FEELING TOO  
WELL JUST NOW!

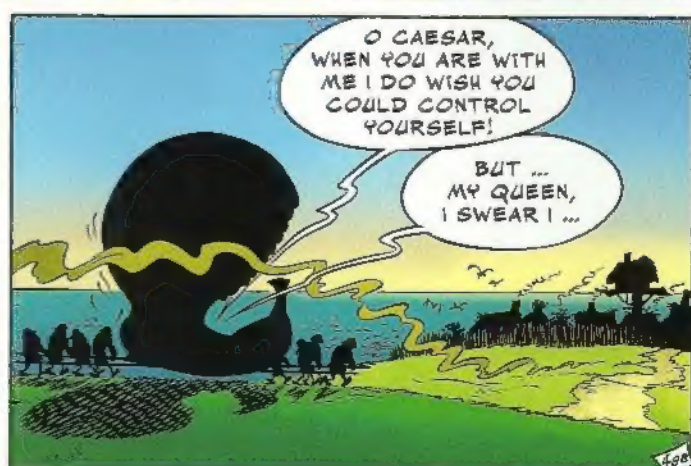


ANY MORE OF THAT  
AND I'LL HAVE YOU  
SERVED TO THE LIONS IN  
THE CIRCUS AS A STARTER!









\* MUCH LATER, JUST FOR REFERENCE, MUSSOLINI'S HENCHMEN USED TO SERVE RICIN OIL TO THEIR PRISONERS TO MAKE THEM CONFESS.



*At last all our friends are reunited in the village square,  
and the guests give the birthday boys a  
lovely surprise.*





